



FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT April 2004



CAPE SAN BLAS TOWERS PROJECT
EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA
RCS 02-852 & 03-190

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| 14. ABSTRACT This EA has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act to analyze the potential environmental consequences from the proposed installation and operation of two towers at the Cape San Blas property of Eglin AFB. The document includes analysis of land use and aesthetics, asbestos, lead-based paint, geology and soils, water resources, biological resources, and cultural resources. The Proposed Action consists of installation of a 500-foot-tall antenna tower and a 95- to 150-foot-tall radar calibration target tower, renovation of an existing building for use as a tower support structure, and removal of an existing 230-foot antenna tower. The No-Action Alternative, which would entail no installation of new towers, renovation of existing buildings, or removal of an existing tower, was also evaluated. No significant adverse environmental impacts are expected from the proposed towers project. | | | | | |
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**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
CAPE SAN BLAS TOWERS PROJECT,
EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA
RCS 02-852 & 03-190**

The Air Force has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) to analyze the potential for impacts as a result of the proposed installation and operation of two towers at the Cape San Blas property on Eglin Air Force Base (AFB), Gulf County, Florida. The EA was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (942 U.S. Code [U.S.C.] 4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and Air Force policy and procedures (32 CFR Part 989).

This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) summarizes the results of the analyses documented in the EA. The discussion is focused on activities that have the potential to impact either the natural or the human environments, or both.

Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives

The proposed action includes the installation and operation of a 500-foot tall antenna tower and a 95- to 150- foot tall calibration target tower at Cape San Blas. The proposed action also includes internal renovations to an existing structure, Building 9982, to serve as a support structure for the 500-foot tall tower and removal of an existing 230-foot tall tower. The proposed 500-foot tall tower site, Building 9982 and the existing 230-foot tall tower are situated at Test Area D-3. The calibration target tower would be situated at FM1C Hill, approximately 4,500 feet to the northeast of Test Area D-3. A no-action alternative, under which no tower installation, building renovation, or tower removal activities would occur was also considered.

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Implementation of the towers project would not result in short- or long-term impacts to socioeconomics, utilities, transportation, airspace, hazardous materials, hazardous waste, storage tanks, Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) sites, radioactive materials, pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls, radon, medical/biohazardous waste, ordnance, air quality, noise, or environmental justice. Although no ERP sites or areas of concern exist in the vicinity of the proposed tower locations, activities would be halted immediately and the ERP contacted if any discolored soil or unusual odors are encountered during construction activities.

The resources analyzed in more detail are land use and aesthetics, asbestos-containing material (ACM), lead-based paint (LBP), geology and soils, water resources, biological resources, and cultural resources.

Installation of the proposed towers would be consistent with existing land uses and would support the purpose of the Cape San Blas property, which is to provide tracking, communications and data support for Department of Defense (DOD) missions. The new towers would result in a change in the visual environment, but would not be expected to result in a change in visual sensitivity in the area.

Renovation of Building 9982 could result in disturbance of ACM and LBP, and demolition of the 230-foot tall antenna tower could result in disturbance of LBP. These activities would be conducted in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations to minimize the potential risks of ACM and LBP to human health and the environment.

Installation of the concrete tower base and guy wire anchor pads would result in a minimal amount of ground disturbance at each tower site. Implementation of standard erosion control measures would reduce the potential for soil erosion and impacts to surface waters from storm water discharge that could occur during construction activities.

Tower construction would occur primarily in disturbed areas. A minimal amount of disturbed vegetation and some trees would be removed. Implementation of standard erosion control measures would reduce the potential for sedimentation in adjacent wetland areas that could occur during construction activities. The proposed project would likely result in bird mortality from collisions with the towers and guy wires. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)-recommended measures to reduce bird tower collisions have been incorporated into the Proposed Action. These measures would include the following:

- Daytime visual markers would be installed on the guy wires to reduce collisions by birds.
- The minimum amount of pilot warning and obstruction avoidance lighting required by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) would be used, and the lights would be the minimum number, minimum intensity, and minimum number of flashes per minute (longest duration between flashes) allowable by the FAA.
- Security lighting for on-ground facilities and equipment would be down-shielded to keep light within the boundaries of the site.
- The existing 230-foot tall tower would be removed after completion of the 500-foot tall tower.

Bird mortality would likely still occur even with implementation of these measures; however, this unavoidable and adverse impact is considered insignificant.

There are no National Register of Historic Places-eligible archaeological sites or historic buildings and structures, and no identified traditional resources within the areas potentially affected by project activities. Towers would not be visible from the Cape San Blas lighthouse historic district.

Although no adverse impacts to cultural resources are expected, in the unexpected event that archaeological resources are discovered during construction activities, activities will be halted in the immediate area and Air Armament Center/Environmental Management Cultural Resources Division (AAC/EMH) would be contacted to determine appropriate actions.

MITIGATION MEASURES


USFWS recommendations intended to minimize or even avoid bird collisions with towers have been incorporated into the Proposed Action. No additional mitigation measures would be required.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The EA reviewed cumulative impacts that could result from the incremental impact of proposed activities when added to past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future actions. No other actions have been identified in the vicinity of the Cape San Blas property that could present the potential for cumulative environmental impacts. Removal of the existing 230-foot tall tower after installation of the 500-foot tall tower would eliminate the potential cumulative impact to birds from having two towers at this location.

DECISION

After considering the analysis of the potential environmental impacts documented in the attached EA, and after considering the mitigation measures described above, I have concluded that the activities proposed to be conducted under either the proposed action or the no-action alternative would not have a significant effect on the human or natural environments. The EA also provides sufficient evidence and analysis to determine that an environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required.


JAMES D. SIRMANS, GM-15
Chief, Environmental Management

05 APR 2004
DATE

**FINAL
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
CAPE SAN BLAS TOWERS PROJECT
EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA**

RCS 02-852 & 03-190

APRIL 2004

COVER SHEET

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CAPE SAN BLAS TOWERS PROJECT, EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA RCS 02-852 & 03-190

- a. Lead Agency: U.S. Air Force
- b. Proposed Action: Installation and operation of two towers at Cape San Blas, Eglin Air Force Base (AFB), Florida.
- c. Inquiries on this document should be directed to: Mr. Charles Brown, Program Manager, HQ AFCEE/ECE, 3300 Sidney Brooks, Brooks AFB, Texas 78235-5112, (210) 536-4203, fax (210) 536-3890.
- d. Designation: Environmental Assessment (EA)
- e. Abstract: This EA has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act to analyze the potential environmental consequences from the proposed installation and operation of two towers at the Cape San Blas property of Eglin AFB. The document includes analysis of land use and aesthetics, asbestos, lead-based paint, geology and soils, water resources, biological resources, and cultural resources. The Proposed Action consists of installation of a 500-foot-tall antenna tower and a 95- to 150-foot-tall radar calibration target tower, renovation of an existing building for use as a tower support structure, and removal of an existing 230-foot antenna tower. The No-Action Alternative, which would entail no installation of new towers, renovation of existing buildings, or removal of an existing tower, was also evaluated.

No significant adverse environmental impacts are expected from the proposed towers project.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | <u>Page</u> |
|---|-------------|
| 1.0 PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION..... | 1-1 |
| 1.1 PURPOSE AND NEED..... | 1-1 |
| 1.2 SCOPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW..... | 1-4 |
| 2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES | 2-1 |
| 2.1 INTRODUCTION | 2-1 |
| 2.2 PROPOSED ACTION..... | 2-1 |
| 2.3 NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE | 2-7 |
| 2.4 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT ELIMINATED FROM FURTHER STUDY | 2-7 |
| 2.5 COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS..... | 2-8 |
| 3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT | 3-1 |
| 3.1 LAND USE AND AESTHETICS..... | 3-1 |
| 3.2 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT..... | 3-3 |
| 3.2.1 Asbestos | 3-3 |
| 3.2.2 Lead-Based Paint | 3-4 |
| 3.3 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT | 3-4 |
| 3.3.1 Geology and Soils..... | 3-4 |
| 3.3.2 Water Resources | 3-5 |
| 3.3.3 Biological Resources | 3-5 |
| 3.3.3.1 Vegetation..... | 3-6 |
| 3.3.3.2 Wildlife..... | 3-6 |
| 3.3.3.3 Sensitive Species..... | 3-6 |
| 3.3.3.4 Sensitive Habitats..... | 3-8 |
| 3.3.4 Cultural Resources | 3-10 |
| 3.3.4.1 Prehistoric Resources..... | 3-11 |
| 3.3.4.2 Historic Structures and Resources..... | 3-11 |
| 3.3.4.3 Traditional Resources..... | 3-11 |
| 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES | 4-1 |
| 4.1 LAND USE AND AESTHETICS..... | 4-1 |
| 4.1.1 Proposed Action..... | 4-1 |
| 4.1.2 No-Action Alternative | 4-2 |
| 4.1.2.1 Mitigation Measures..... | 4-2 |
| 4.2 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT | 4-2 |
| 4.2.1 Asbestos | 4-2 |
| 4.2.1.1 Proposed Action..... | 4-2 |
| 4.2.1.2 No-Action Alternative..... | 4-2 |
| 4.2.1.3 Mitigation Measures..... | 4-2 |
| 4.2.2 Lead-Based Paint | 4-2 |
| 4.2.2.1 Proposed Action..... | 4-2 |
| 4.2.2.2 No-Action Alternative..... | 4-3 |
| 4.2.2.3 Mitigation Measures..... | 4-3 |
| 4.3 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT | 4-3 |
| 4.3.1 Geology and Soils..... | 4-3 |
| 4.3.1.1 Proposed Action..... | 4-3 |
| 4.3.1.2 No-Action Alternative..... | 4-4 |
| 4.3.1.3 Mitigation Measures..... | 4-4 |

TABLE OF CONTENTS (CONTINUED)

| | | <u>Page</u> |
|-------|---|-------------|
| 4.3.2 | Water Resources | 4-4 |
| | 4.3.2.1 Proposed Action..... | 4-4 |
| | 4.3.2.2 No-Action Alternative. | 4-4 |
| | 4.3.2.3 Mitigation Measures. | 4-4 |
| 4.3.3 | Biological Resources | 4-5 |
| | 4.3.3.1 Proposed Action..... | 4-5 |
| | 4.3.3.2 No-Action Alternative. | 4-7 |
| | 4.3.3.3 Mitigation Measures. | 4-7 |
| 4.3.4 | Cultural Resources | 4-7 |
| | 4.3.4.1 Proposed Action..... | 4-7 |
| | 4.3.4.2 No-Action Alternative. | 4-8 |
| | 4.3.4.3 Mitigation Measures. | 4-8 |
| 4.4 | UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS | 4-8 |
| 4.5 | COMPATIBILITY OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAND USE PLANS AND POLICIES..... | 4-8 |
| 4.6 | RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SHORT-TERM USES OF THE ENVIRONMENT..... AND LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY | 4-8 |
| 4.7 | IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES..... | 4-8 |
| 4.8 | CUMULATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES..... | 4-9 |
| 5.0 | LIST OF PREPARERS AND CONTRIBUTORS..... | 5-1 |
| 6.0 | REFERENCES..... | 6-1 |

APPENDICES

- Appendix A - Federal Agency Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) Consistency Determination
- Appendix B - Agency Consultation

LIST OF TABLES

| | <u>Page</u> |
|--|-------------|
| 2-1 Summary of Potential Environmental Impacts from the Proposed Action and No-Action Alternative | 2-9 |
| 3-1 Sensitive Terrestrial Species Potentially Occurring on Cape San Blas | 3-7 |

LIST OF FIGURES

| | <u>Page</u> |
|---|-------------|
| 1-1 Eglin Military Complex and Cape San Blas Location Map | 1-2 |
| 1-2 Cape San Blas Facilities Map | 1-3 |
| 2-1 Proposed Towers Project Sites | 2-2 |
| 2-2 Proposed 500-foot Tall Antenna Tower | 2-3 |
| 2-3 Proposed Calibration Target Tower | 2-6 |
| 3-1 Sensitive Habitats on Cape San Blas | 3-9 |

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| AAC | Air Armament Center |
| ACM | asbestos-containing material |
| AFB | Air Force Base |
| AFI | Air Force Instruction |
| agl | above ground level |
| APE | Area of Potential Effect |
| CAA | Clean Air Act |
| CERCLA | Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act |
| CEQ | Council on Environmental Quality |
| CFR | Code of Federal Regulations |
| CZMA | Coastal Zone Management Act |
| DOD | Department of Defense |
| EA | environmental assessment |
| EGTTR | Eglin Gulf Test and Training Range |
| EMH | Environmental Management Cultural Resources Division |
| EMR | Environmental Restoration |
| EPA | Environmental Protection Agency |
| ERP | Environmental Restoration Program |
| FAA | Federal Aviation Administration |
| FCMP | Florida Coastal Management Program |
| FCMZ | Florida Coastal Management Zone |
| LBP | lead-based paint |
| µg/m ³ | microgram per cubic meter |
| mg/L | milligram per liter |
| MOA | Military Operating Area |
| mph | miles per hour |
| NRHP | National Register of Historic Places |
| NEPA | National Environmental Policy Act |
| NESHAP | National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants |
| NHPA | National Historic Preservation Act |
| NPDES | National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System |
| NWI | National Wetlands Inventory |
| OSHA | Occupational Safety and Health Administration |
| PCB | polychlorinated biphenyl |
| pCi/L | picocuries per liter |
| P.L. | Public Law |
| RCRA | Resource Conservation and Recovery Act |
| ROI | region of influence |
| SHPO | State Historic Preservation Officer |
| SR | State Road |
| U.S.C. | U.S. Code |
| USFWS | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service |

1.0 PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

This environmental assessment (EA) examines the potential for impacts to the environment as a result of the construction and operation of two towers, demolition of an existing tower, and internal renovation of an existing building at the Cape San Blas property of Eglin Air Force Base (AFB), Florida. This document has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and Air Force policy and procedures (32 CFR Part 989).

1.1 PURPOSE AND NEED

Cape San Blas is part of the Eglin Military Complex, which, in addition to Eglin AFB, includes the Eglin Gulf Test and Training Range (EGTTR) in the Gulf of Mexico (Figure 1-1) and airspace areas. Facilities at Cape San Blas provide tracking, communications, and data support for Department of Defense (DOD) missions utilizing the EGTTR (Figure 1-2). Facilities present at Cape San Blas include two radars that are calibrated before and after each mission by acquiring a known target. Targets currently used for radar calibration are mounted on two privately owned towers situated off Air Force property. The Air Force has agreements with the tower owners to place and use calibration targets on their towers. These two targets are approximately 5 and 8 miles away from Cape San Blas, respectively. Radar calibration requires both visual and radiofrequency acquisition of a target. Because of the distance to these targets, they often cannot be visually acquired in certain weather conditions, such as fog. In addition, use of these targets results in calibration errors that reduce radar accuracy. Data accuracy requirements have increased, and the current level of radar accuracy obtained when the radar is calibrated using these targets is not high enough to support many current missions. Missions with high accuracy requirements may not be conducted using the current target locations.

Installation of a tower to support a calibration target on Cape San Blas property would result in it being close enough to the radar for accurate visual and radio acquisition even under inclement weather conditions. The Air Force would have control of the tower because it would be on Air Force-owned property. Use of this new tower would be expected to result in a 40- to 50-percent improvement in data accuracy, which is critical to meeting current mission data accuracy requirements.

Another facility present at Cape San Blas is a 230-foot-tall tower. This tower is an antenna farm and telemetry relay point used to track mission-testing activities in the EGTTR. This tower is currently operating at capacity. Recent increases in mission activities require an increase in antenna capacity. The Air Force is proposing to replace this tower with a 500-foot-tall tower. The taller tower would provide room for additional antennas. The taller tower would also provide longer line-of-sight capability to track testing missions.



EXPLANATION

- Florida Land Boundary
- Eglin Land Test Range
- Eglin Gulf Test Range

Eglin Military Complex and Cape San Blas Location Map

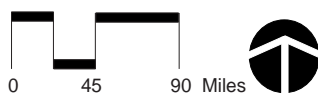
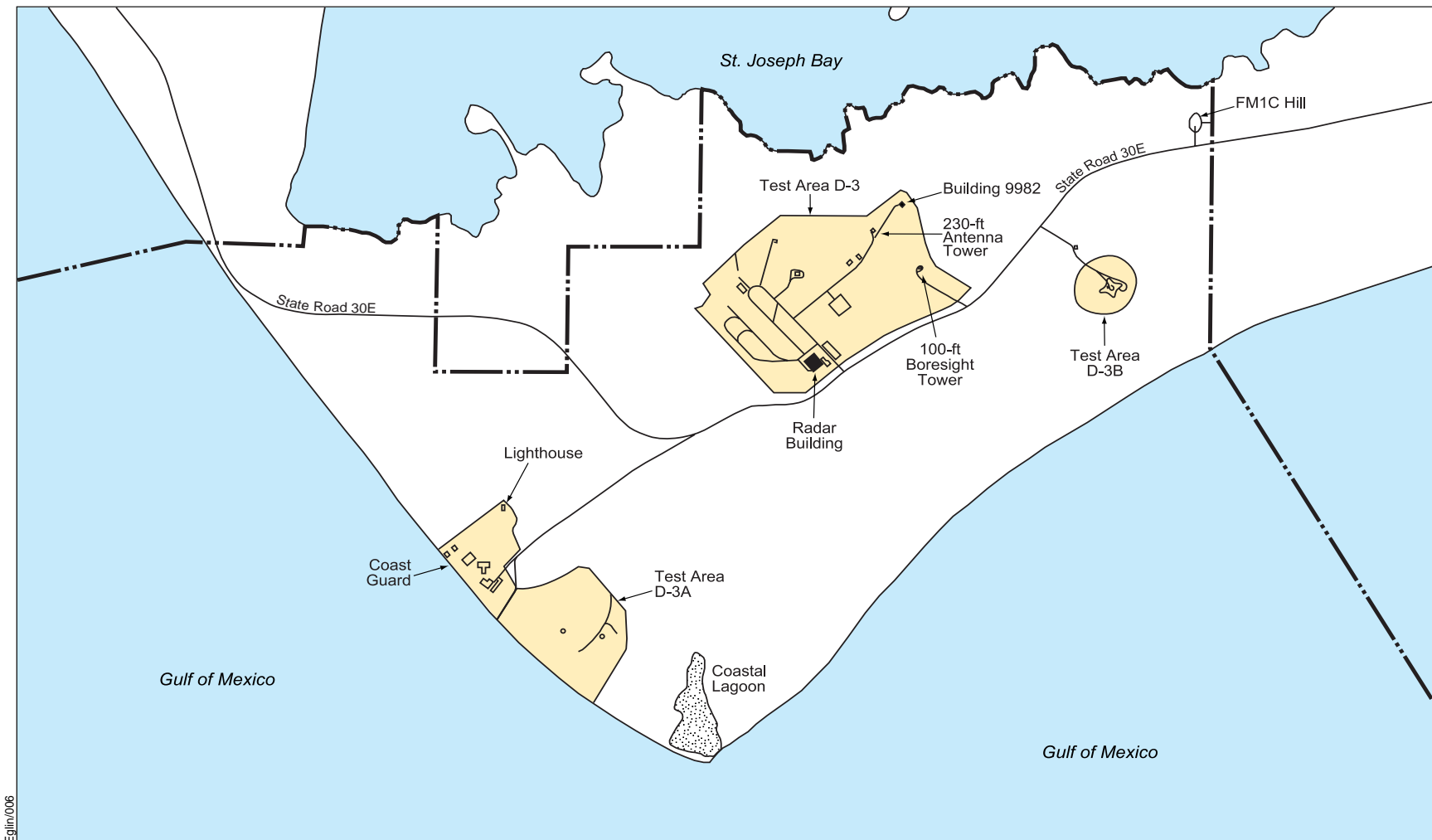





Figure 1-1



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EXPLANATION

-  Roads
-  Cape Blas Property Boundary
-  Test Areas



Cape San Blas Facilities Map

Figure 1-2

1.2 SCOPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

This EA describes and addresses the potential environmental impacts of the activities associated with the installation and operation of two towers at Cape San Blas. The EA evaluates the potential impacts of the Proposed Action and the No-Action Alternative.

Consistent with Air Force policy and procedures (32 CFR Part 989) and the CEQ regulations, the scope of analysis presented in this EA is defined by the potential range of environmental impacts that would result from implementation of the alternatives. Resources that have a potential for impact were considered in more detail in order to provide the decision maker with sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether or not additional analysis is required pursuant to Title 40 CFR Part 1508.9.

The resources analyzed in more detail are: land use and aesthetics, asbestos, lead-based paint (LBP), geology and soils, water resources, biological resources, and cultural resources. The affected environment and the potential environmental consequences relative to these resources are described in Chapters 3.0 and 4.0, respectively.

Initial analysis indicated that the proposed activities would not result in either short- or long-term impacts to socioeconomics, utilities, transportation, airspace, hazardous materials, hazardous waste, storage tanks, the Environmental Restoration Program (ERP), radioactive materials, pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), radon, medical/biohazardous waste, ordnance, air quality, noise, or environmental justice. The reasons for not addressing these resources are briefly discussed in the following paragraphs.

Socioeconomics. There would be no change in population or permanent employment associated with the proposed towers project. Employment associated with construction activities would be short term and minimal. Because no changes in population or employment are expected, impacts to socioeconomics would not be expected and not analyzed further in this EA.

Utilities. No increases in population or employment that could result in increased utility usage are expected. The proposed towers would require electricity for lighting, but there are no other utility requirements associated with the proposed towers project. Electricity requirements would be minimal. Impacts to utilities are not expected and are not analyzed further in this EA.

Transportation. The proposed towers project would not result in any changes in traffic levels or patterns, nor result in any changes to existing roads. Construction activities would result in a short-term and insignificant increase in construction traffic to Cape San Blas. Impacts to transportation are not expected and are not analyzed further in this EA.

Airspace. There are no aircraft operations associated with the towers project. Cape San Blas is within a Tyndall AFB Military Operating Area (MOA). Although the floor of the MOA is at 300 feet above ground level (agl), operations are

generally conducted above 1,000 feet agl. Eglin AFB and Tyndall AFB airspace personnel have indicated that the proposed towers would have no impact on their operations (Roswell, 2003; Wintersole, 2003). The towers would be registered with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and painted and lighted in accordance with FAA requirements. The Air Force will submit FAA Form 7460-1, Notice of Proposed Construction or Alteration, to the FAA prior to construction of the towers. Any airspace issues would be resolved through this consultation with the FAA. Impacts to airspace are not expected and are not analyzed further in this EA.

Hazardous Materials. Hazardous materials are not currently used or stored at the proposed towers sites with the exception of small quantities of hazardous materials (e.g., stains, glue) associated with the carpentry shop activities currently being conducted in Building 9982. Small quantities of material such as fuels, oils, and lubricants associated with the operation of construction equipment may be used during construction activities. The construction contractor would be responsible for following applicable regulations and procedures for the proper management of these materials. Routine use of these materials would not be expected to impact the base's current hazardous materials management operations. Hazardous materials storage and usage are not expected to be required as a result of the operation of the towers except for small quantities of paint that may be used for routine maintenance every 3 to 5 years. Impacts to hazardous material management are not expected and are not analyzed further in this EA.

Hazardous Waste. Hazardous waste is not expected to be generated by construction activities. Hazardous materials required (e.g., fuel, paint) would generally be used in process. The construction contractor would be responsible for following applicable regulations and procedures for the proper management of any hazardous wastes that may be generated by these materials in accordance with applicable regulations and procedures. Hazardous waste generation, storage, and disposal are not expected to occur as a result of tower operation. Impacts to hazardous waste management are not expected and are not analyzed further in this EA.

Storage Tanks. There are no storage tanks at the proposed tower sites, and no storage tanks are required for the towers project. Impacts from storage tanks are not expected and are not analyzed further in this EA.

ERP. Investigation of suspected or known past hazardous waste disposal sites is required by Eglin AFB's Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Corrective Action Permit issued by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The ERP is required to conduct investigations of these suspected or known sites in order to evaluate impacts to human health or the environment. While there are no ERP sites or Areas of Concern in the vicinity of the proposed tower sites, the discovery of discolored soil or the presence of unusual odors during construction activities could indicate that hazardous contaminants are present. In the unexpected event that either of these conditions are encountered during construction activities, work would cease in the immediate area and Air Armament Center/Environmental Restoration (AAC/EMR) would be contacted

immediately. Impacts to the ERP are not expected and are not analyzed further in this EA.

Radioactive Materials. Radioactive materials have not been used at the proposed tower sites, and none would be used for the proposed towers project. Impacts from radioactive materials are not expected and are not analyzed further in this EA.

Pesticides. No changes in existing pesticide usage would be expected from the proposed tower installation and operation. Impacts from pesticide usage would not be expected and are not analyzed further in this EA.

Polychlorinated Biphenyls. No transformers containing PCBs are present at the proposed tower sites. Therefore, impacts from PCBs would not be expected and are not analyzed further in this EA.

Radon. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has prepared a map of radon zones based on radon potential. Predicted indoor radon levels are highest in Zone 1 and lowest in Zone 3. Gulf County, Florida, is designated as a Zone 3 county. Predicted average indoor radon levels in Zone 3 areas are less than 2 picoCuries per liter (pCi/L). However, radon potential within a county can vary (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2003a). The U.S. EPA's recommended action level for homes is 4 pCi/L or higher. The proposed towers project does not involve any inhabited structures. Therefore, impacts from radon are not expected and are not analyzed further in this EA.

Medical/Biohazardous Waste. Medical/biohazardous waste has not been generated at Cape San Blas and none would be generated from the proposed towers project. Impacts from medical/biohazardous waste are not be expected and are not analyzed further in this EA.

Ordnance. Ordnance has not been stored, used, or disposed at the proposed tower sites, and the proposed tower project would not include the storage, use, or disposal of ordnance. Impacts from ordnance would not be expected and are not analyzed further in this EA.

Air Quality. Gulf County is not designated as a nonattainment area for any of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for criteria air pollutants by the U.S. EPA (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2003b). No air emissions would be associated with operation of the proposed towers. Air emissions would be generated during construction activities. These activities would be short term, and the emissions generated would be insignificant. Emissions associated with construction activities would include fugitive dust from ground-disturbing activities and exhaust from construction equipment operation. The ground disturbance and construction equipment requirements associated with installation of the towers would be minimal. Impacts to air quality are not expected and are not analyzed further in this EA.

Noise. Noise generated from tower construction activities would be short term, intermittent, and localized. No changes in existing noise levels would be expected to occur from the operation of the towers. Impacts from noise are not expected and are not analyzed further in this EA.

Environmental Justice. The proposed activities would not generate any environmental effects that would adversely affect low-income or minority populations. Therefore, an environmental justice analysis is not required and is not analyzed further in this EA.

In addition, this EA does not address radio frequency electromagnetic compatibility with the surrounding civilian or military communities. The electromagnetic compatibility analysis must be addressed by the Joint Spectrum Center and the DOD Gulf Area Frequency Coordinator to insure no adverse effects impact authorized radio frequency users.

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2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This section describes the Proposed Action and alternatives for the towers project, including the No-Action Alternative and alternatives considered but eliminated from further study. This section also provides a comparison of the environmental impacts of the Proposed Action and No-Action Alternative.

2.2 PROPOSED ACTION

The Proposed Action would entail the installation of two towers, a 500-foot-tall antenna tower and a 95- to 150-foot-tall radar calibration target tower, to support ongoing and future activities at Cape San Blas (Figure 2-1). The Proposed Action would also entail renovation of an existing building to serve as a support structure for the 500-foot-tall tower and removal of an existing 230-foot-tall tower.

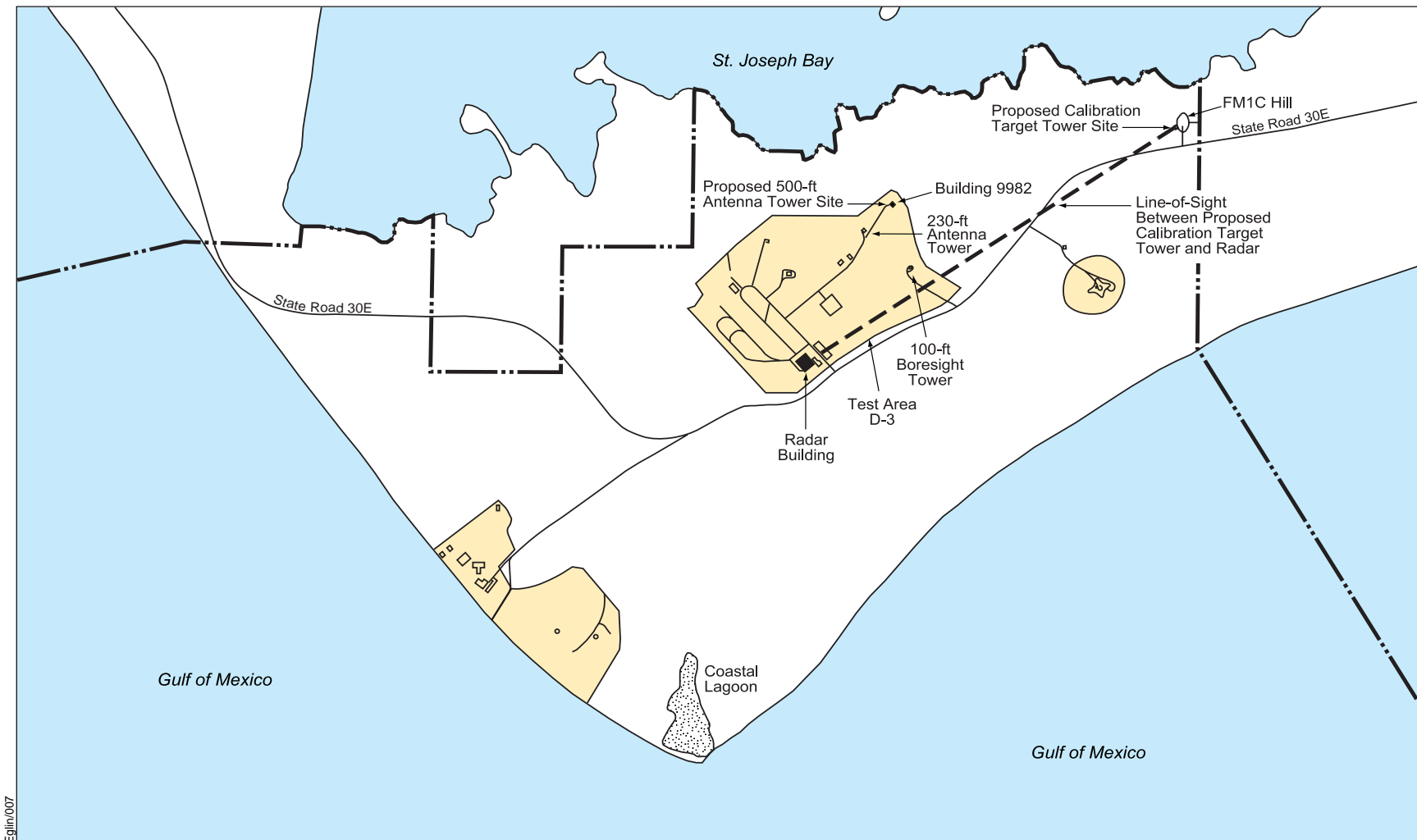
Construction equipment access to both tower sites would be provided via existing roads. Installation of the 500-foot-tall antenna tower would be expected to take 6 to 8 weeks. Installation of the radar calibration target tower would be expected to take less than 1 month. Construction is expected to begin in 2004.

500-Foot-Tall Antenna Tower

The 500-foot antenna tower would be a free-standing, triangular metal lattice structure approximately 5 feet wide on each side supported by guy wires. The tower would be capable of withstanding a wind gust of up to 155 miles per hour (mph) for 3 seconds. The tower would be installed at Building 9982 within the secured, fenced area of Test Area D-3. This site is approximately 600 feet northeast of an existing 230-foot antenna tower (Figure 2-2).

Tower installation would require creating four concrete anchor pads: one for the base of the tower and three for the guy wires. Each of the pads would be approximately 100 square feet in area and would be 3 to 4 feet deep. The pads would be installed level with the ground surface. The three concrete anchor pads for the guy wires would be situated approximately 300 to 400 feet from the tower base. The specific layout for the guy wire anchor pads has not been determined, and some or all of these anchor pads may be situated outside of the existing secured fenced area. Installation of these pads would require the removal of several trees. A chain link fence would be installed around any pads situated outside of the secured, fenced area. Concrete anchor pad installation would require the excavation of a total of approximately 55 cubic yards of soil. The excavated soil would either be utilized on site or removed for use as clean fill elsewhere.

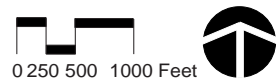
After the concrete pads have been completed, the tower would be installed. Guy wires would be connected to the tower at 100, 200, 300, 400, and 480 feet agl,



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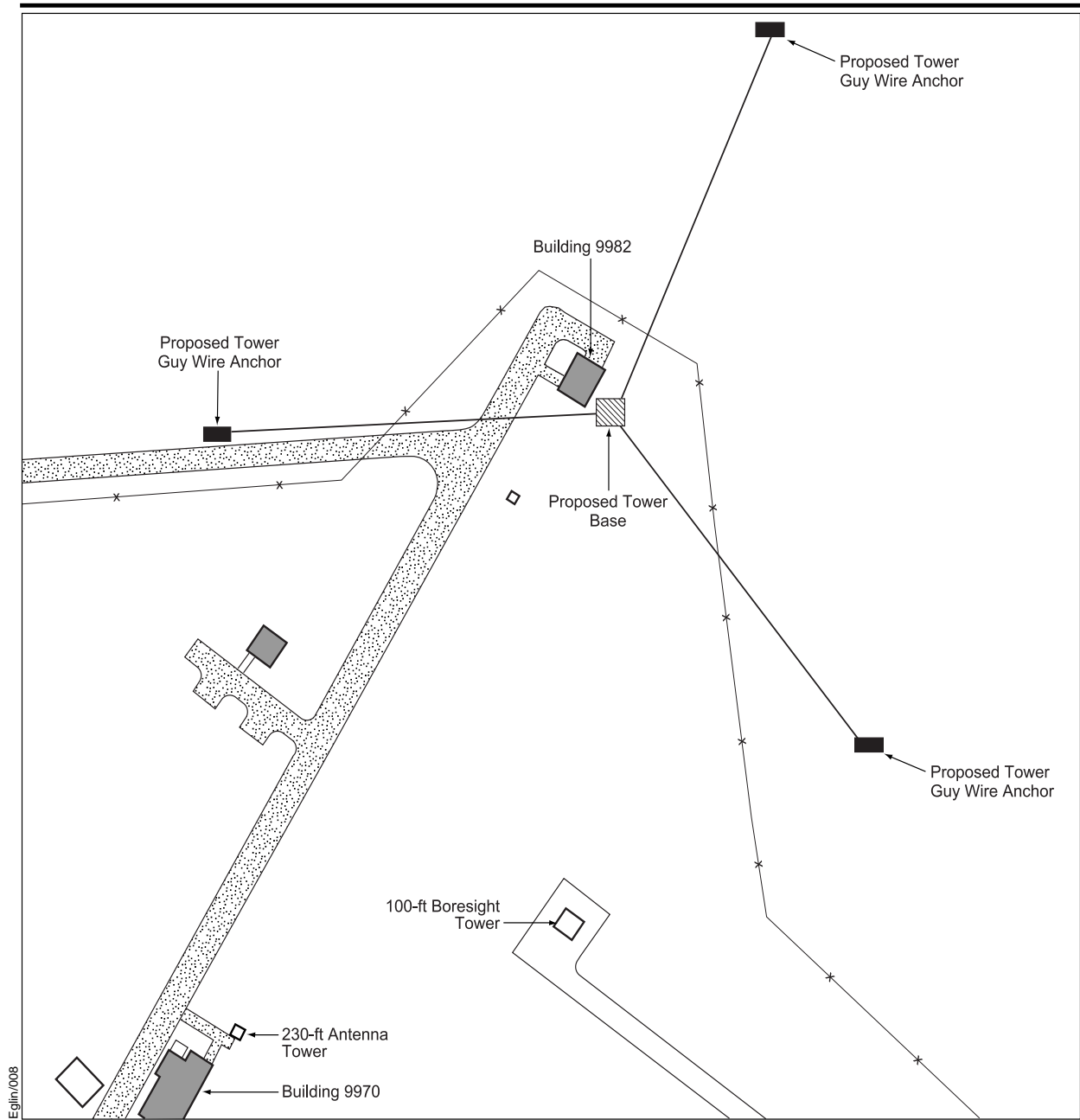
EXPLANATION

- Roads
- Cape Blas Property Boundary
- Test Areas



Proposed Towers Project Sites

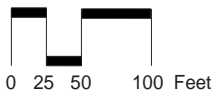
Figure 2-1



EXPLANATION

- Building
- Fence

Approximate Scale



Proposed 500-foot Tall Antenna Tower

Figure 2-2

and to the three anchor pads. Daytime visual markers would be installed on the guy wires to reduce collisions by birds.

The tower would be painted and lighted in accordance with FAA requirements. FAA requirements allow for several types of lighting systems, which may or may not also require tower markings (U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, 1995). This tower would be painted in seven equal bands of orange and white, and it is expected that it would use an aviation red obstruction light system. For a 500-foot-tall tower, this lighting system would consist of a flashing red beacon at the top and at approximately 250 feet agl, and steady burning red lights at approximately 125 and 350 feet agl. However, in order to reduce or avoid bird collisions with the tower, the minimum number of pilot warning and obstruction avoidance lighting required by the FAA would be used. The lights would be the minimum number, minimum intensity, and minimum number of flashes per minute (longest duration between flashes) allowable by the FAA. In addition, security lighting for on-ground facilities and equipment would be down-shielded to keep light within the boundaries of the site. The tower would be connected to the existing electrical and fiber optics lines at the site.

After completion of the 500-foot-tall tower, the antenna and microwave equipment currently installed on the existing 230-foot antenna tower would be removed and installed on the new tower. The 230-foot-tall tower would not be reused and it would be removed. The removed tower parts would be salvaged or reused at another site. Because the tower was constructed prior to 1978, it may contain LBP. Paint samples from the tower and a soil sample from beneath the tower would be collected and tested for the presence of lead prior to tower demolition. The demolition contractor would be notified of the potential presence of LBP. Procedures for controlling and monitoring worker exposure to lead would be established in accordance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) guidelines and requirements. Tower removal would be conducted in accordance with applicable federal and state air quality and hazardous waste regulations. Any LBP waste would be collected, handled, and disposed in accordance with U.S. EPA and state of Florida hazardous waste regulations.

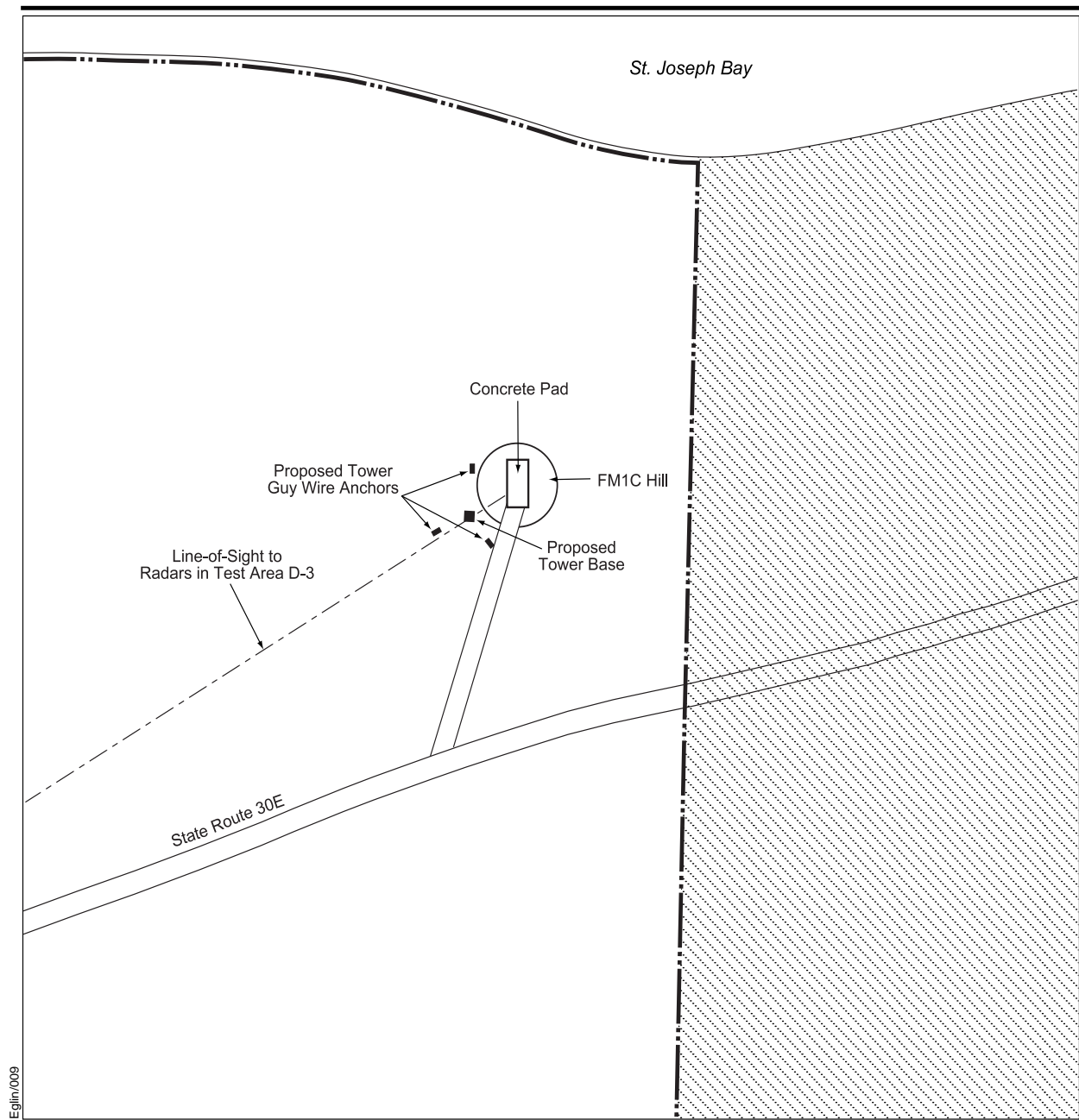
Building 9982, currently used as a carpentry shop, would serve as the tower support facility. Renovation of this building for use as the tower support facility would include installation of central heating and air conditioning and electronic equipment. Renovation activities could result in disturbance to asbestos-containing material (ACM) and LBP. Prior to renovation, materials that would be disturbed would be tested for the presence of ACM and LBP. If ACM and/or LBP are present, procedures for controlling and monitoring worker exposure to asbestos and/or lead would be established in accordance with OSHA guidelines and requirements. ACM and/or LBP removal would be conducted in accordance with applicable federal and state air quality and hazardous waste regulations. Any ACM and/or LBP waste would be collected, handled, and disposed in accordance with U.S. EPA and state of Florida hazardous waste regulations.

Radar Calibration Target Tower

The radar calibration target tower would also be a free-standing, triangular metal lattice structure approximately 5 feet wide on each side supported by guy wires. The tower would be capable of withstanding a wind gust of up to 155 mph for 3 seconds. The calibration target tower would be installed at FM1C Hill at the eastern edge of the Cape San Blas property (Figure 2-3). This tower would support a reflector target that would be used to calibrate the radars at Test Area D-3. The proposed calibration target tower site is approximately 4,500 feet northeast of the existing radars, which is the minimum required distance between the radars and the calibration target. A clear line of sight is required between the target and the radars for both visual and radio acquisition purposes. An existing line-of-sight corridor between the radar in Test Area D-3 and FM1C Hill is kept cleared of taller vegetation. However, the target needs to be mounted high enough to gain a clear line of sight over the remaining vegetation in the corridor. In order to meet this requirement, the proposed tower would be between 95 feet and 150 feet tall.

FM1C Hill is an artificial mound with a height approximately 30 feet above the surrounding terrain. Vegetation on the hill and the surrounding areas is mowed. The tower would be situated at the base of FM1C Hill on its western side. Tower installation would require creating four concrete anchor pads: one for the base of the tower and three for the guy wires. Each of the pads would be approximately 16 square feet in area and would be 3 to 4 feet deep. The pads would be installed level with the ground surface. The three concrete anchor pads for the guy wires would be situated approximately 30 feet from the tower base. The tower base and two of the guy wire anchors would be situated within the area of mowed vegetation maintained at FM1C Hill. The third guy wire anchor would be situated within the cleared line-of-sight corridor between the hill and the Test Area D-3 radars. Installation of the calibration target tower and pads would not require removal of trees; however, some brushy vegetation in the line-of-sight corridor would be removed for installation of the third guy wire anchor. Concrete anchor pad installation would require the excavation of a total of less than 10 cubic yards of soil. The excavated soil would either be utilized on site or removed for use as clean fill elsewhere.

After the concrete pads have been completed, the tower would be installed. Guy wires would be connected to the tower at 50 feet agl and at its top, and to the three anchor pads. Daytime visual markers would be installed on the guy wires to reduce collisions by birds. A tetrahedron reflector would be mounted on the tower for use as the calibration target. FAA regulations regarding painting and lighting do not normally apply to structures less than 200 feet agl. However, the FAA may recommend lighting and/or marking of the radar calibration target tower. The Air Force would consult with the FAA to determine what lighting and/or marking requirements, if any, are required for this tower. These may include painting the tower in seven equal bands of orange and white and installation of two steady burning red lights at the top. The tower would be connected to the existing electrical lines at the FM1C Hill site.



EXPLANATION

- Cape San Blas Property Boundary
- Off-Base Property

Proposed Calibration Target Tower



Figure 2-3

2.3 NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the No-Action Alternative, neither the antenna tower nor the radar calibration target tower would be constructed. The Air Force would continue to use the existing 230-foot antenna tower and calibration targets mounted on privately owned towers off site.

2.4 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT ELIMINATED FROM FURTHER STUDY

Construct Calibration Target Tower at Another Location

This alternative would entail installing the calibration target tower at another location on Cape San Blas property. The target must be a minimum of 4,500 feet from the radars. The only areas on Cape San Blas property that meet this distance requirement are on the western side of the property. However, the presence of a bald eagle nest in this area results in restrictions within a 1,500-foot radius of the nest, eliminating much of this area. Areas to the north and south of this nest radius are not feasible for other reasons. A parcel of state-owned land is situated between the radars and the northwestern part of Cape San Blas property. Trees on this parcel would obstruct the necessary line of sight between the radars and any tower installed in this portion of the property and these trees are not under the Air Force's control to clear or trim. The area to the south of the eagle nest is within the radar's line of sight for monitoring activities in the EGTR. Installation of the calibration target in this area would interfere with the mission tracking activities. In addition, the 4,500-foot distance requirement would result in the tower being constructed close to the shoreline in this area. The western shoreline of Cape San Blas is undergoing rapid erosion (from 6 to 36 feet per year since 1875) (Department of the Air Force, 1999). Any facility situated near the western shoreline would be subject to wave erosion and would likely need to be relocated in a few years. For these reasons, use of another location for the calibration target tower on Cape San Blas was eliminated from further study.

Use Another Off-Site Tower for Calibration Target

This alternative would entail placing a calibration target on another tower off site. No other existing towers have been identified that could be used by the Air Force. In addition, because of the distance to any off-site towers, this alternative would not resolve the problem of being unable to obtain optical acquisition of the target in inclement weather. Use of an off-site tower would continue to leave the Air Force without control of its target site. For these reasons, using another off-site tower for a calibration target was eliminated from further study.

Construct the New Tower on the Existing Antenna Tower Site

This alternative would entail demolishing the existing 230-foot-tall tower and constructing the new 500-foot-tall tower in the same location. However, the equipment on the tower would not be available during the demolition and construction activities. This would not be feasible due to mission requirements. Therefore, this alternative was eliminated from further study.

Extend the Existing Antenna Tower

Increasing the height of the existing 230-foot-tall tower would provide more antenna space and increase its range. However, as under the previous alternative, the equipment on this tower would not be available during construction to increase its height. This would not be feasible due to mission requirements. Therefore, this alternative was eliminated from further study.

Construct Antenna Tower at Another Location

The proposed site for the 500-foot antenna tower is within the secured, fenced area of Test Area D-3 and is at a location where electricity and fiber optics lines and a structure that can be converted to a support facility are available. Construction of the tower at another location would require construction of a new building to serve as the tower support facility and may require installation of utility lines to provide electricity and fiber optics. In addition to these construction requirements, if the selected site is situated outside an existing secured area, a new secured area would have to be created. This would entail construction of fencing and implementation of security features that would require additional personnel support. Use of the proposed calibration target tower site for the antenna tower would make this site unavailable for the calibration target and, because this site is close to the Cape San Blas property line, at least one of the anchor footings for this tower would need to be situated on privately owned property. For these reasons, use of another site for the antenna tower was eliminated from further study.

2.5 COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Table 2-1 presents a summary comparison of potential environmental impacts resulting from implementation of the Proposed Action and No-Action Alternative.

Table 2-1. Summary of Potential Environmental Impacts from the Proposed Action and No-Action Alternative
Page 1 of 2

| Resource Category | Proposed Action | No-Action Alternative |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| Land Use and Aesthetics | <p>Impacts: Installation and operation of tower would be consistent with existing land uses and the purpose of Cape San Blas. Towers would result in a change to visual resources, but would not result in a change in visual sensitivity.</p> <p>Mitigation: No mitigation measures are required.</p> | <p>Impacts: No changes in land use or aesthetics from existing conditions.</p> <p>Mitigation: No mitigation measures are required.</p> |
| Asbestos-Containing Material | <p>Impacts: ACM may be present in Building 9982 and may be damaged during building renovation. These activities would be conducted in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations to minimize the potential risks of ACM to human health and the environment.</p> <p>Mitigation: No mitigation measures are required.</p> | <p>Impacts: No change from existing conditions is expected.</p> <p>Mitigation: No mitigation measures are required.</p> |
| Lead-Based Paint | <p>Impacts: LBP may be present in Building 9982 and the 230-foot-tall antenna tower, and may be disturbed by building renovation and tower demolition. These activities would be conducted in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations to minimize the potential risks of LBP to human health and the environment.</p> <p>Mitigation: No mitigation measures are required.</p> | <p>Impacts: No change from existing conditions is expected.</p> <p>Mitigation: No mitigation measures are required.</p> |
| Geology and Soils | <p>Impacts: Short-term impacts could occur as a result of less than 1 acre of ground disturbance associated with tower installation. Implementation of standard erosion control measures would reduce the potential for impacts from construction activities.</p> <p>Mitigation: No mitigation measures are required.</p> | <p>Impacts: No change from existing conditions is expected.</p> <p>Mitigation: No mitigation measures are required.</p> |

Table 2-1. Summary of Potential Environmental Impacts from the Proposed Action and No-Action Alternative
Page 2 of 2

| Resource Category | Proposed Action | No-Action Alternative |
|---|--|--|
| Water Resources | <p>Impacts: An increase in impervious surfaces could increase surface water drainage, but the total amount of impervious surfaces associated with the proposed towers would be minimal (464 square feet). Implementation of standard erosion control measures would reduce the potential for impacts from construction activities.</p> <p>Mitigation: No mitigation measures are required.</p> | <p>Impacts: No change from existing conditions is expected.</p> <p>Mitigation: No mitigation measures are required.</p> |
| Biological Resources | <p>Impacts: Construction activities would require removal of a minimal amount of primarily disturbed vegetation. Implementation of standard erosion control measures would reduce the potential for sedimentation in adjacent wetland areas that could occur during construction activities. Project is likely to result in bird mortality from collisions with towers and guy wires. USFWS-recommended measures to reduce bird tower collisions have been incorporated into the Proposed Action.</p> <p>Mitigation: USFWS-recommended measures to reduce bird tower collisions have been incorporated into the Proposed Action. No additional mitigation measures are required.</p> | <p>Impacts: Tower construction and demolition and would not occur. No change from existing conditions is expected.</p> <p>Mitigation: No mitigation measures are required.</p> |
| Cultural Resources | <p>Impacts: There are no National Register of Historic Places-eligible archaeological sites or historic buildings and structures, and no identified traditional resources within the areas potentially affected by project activities. Towers would not be visible from the Cape San Blas lighthouse historic district because of the forested areas adjacent to the district.</p> <p>Mitigation: No mitigation measures are required.</p> | <p>Impacts: Tower construction and demolition and would not occur. No change from existing conditions is expected.</p> <p>Mitigation: No mitigation measures are required.</p> |
| ACM = asbestos-containing material agl = above ground level FAA = Federal Aviation Administration LBP = lead-based paint USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | | |

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

This chapter describes the existing environmental conditions at Cape San Blas. The environmental components addressed include relevant aspects of the natural and human environments that are likely to be affected by the Proposed Action.

Based upon the nature of the activities that would occur under the Proposed Action and the No-Action Alternative, it was determined that the potential exists for the following resources to be affected: land use and aesthetics, ACM, LBP, geology and soils, water resources, biological resources, and cultural resources.

Cape San Blas is situated on the Gulf of Mexico in Gulf County in northwest Florida (see Figure 1-1). The site is approximately 8 miles south of the city of Port Saint Joe and consists of approximately 425 acres of federally owned property.

3.1 LAND USE AND AESTHETICS

This section describes the land use and aesthetics for the area surrounding the proposed tower sites at Cape San Blas. The region of influence (ROI) includes the proposed tower sites on Cape San Blas and potentially affected adjacent property.

Land use at Cape San Blas includes several distinct test sites and facility locations generally separated by areas of open space (see Figure 1-2). The proposed site for the 500-foot antenna tower is situated within the fenced, secured area of Test Area D-3. Test Area D-3 is a general purpose test site that provides instrumentation support for many diverse missions. Most of the facilities at Cape San Blas are situated within this area. The general functions of the test area include radar tracking, time-space-position information, telemetry, frequency control and analysis, command destruct, and command guidance. Facilities situated at Test Area D-3 include a control center building, microwave building, telemetry building, electrical power station building, maintenance and storage buildings, radar mounds, antenna support structures, radars, and a 230-foot-tall antenna tower (Department of the Air Force, 1999). The proposed 500-foot-tall tower site is adjacent to an existing facility, Building 9982, which is currently used as a carpentry shop. The proposed tower site was formerly occupied by a tower that was approximately 300 feet tall and was removed more than 30 years ago (Earth Tech, 2003). The concrete anchors of this former tower are still present at Building 9982. Areas adjacent to the fenced boundary of Test Area D-3 are generally undeveloped and occupied by forests.

The proposed calibration tower site is at FM1C Hill, which is situated in the northeast corner of the Cape San Blas property approximately 250 feet to the north of State Route 30E. This site consists of an artificial hill, approximately 30 feet in elevation above the surrounding topography. A paved road leads from State Road (SR) 30E to the top of the hill, which is used as a platform for

instrumentation vans. Vegetation on the hill and surrounding area is mowed and the site appears as a cleared area generally surrounded by wooded areas. A corridor that has been cleared of trees approximately 100 feet wide extends southwesterly from the hill to provide a visual line of sight between the hill and the radars at Test Area D-3. No buildings are present at this site.

Cape San Blas is situated within the Florida Coastal Management Zone (FCMZ). The federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) requires that federal agencies operating facilities within a state's coastal zone prepare a consistency determination when undertaking an action within the coastal zone to demonstrate that the proposed activity would comply with the requirements of the state coastal management program. The Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP) consists of 23 Florida statutes administered by multiple state agencies. The FCMP operates the Florida State Clearinghouse, which circulates applications for federal activities to the state agencies that have regulatory authority over some part of the proposed activity. Each state agency is required to ensure that federal activities comply with the requirements of the specific FCMP statutes and authorities within its jurisdiction.

Aesthetics. Visual resources include natural and man-made features that give a particular environment its aesthetic qualities. Aesthetics were analyzed for the proposed tower sites and adjacent areas from which these sites are visible. The analysis considered visual sensitivity, which is the degree of public interest in a visual resource and concern over adverse changes in the quality of the resource.

High visual sensitivity exists in areas where views are rare, unique, or in other ways special, such as in remote or pristine environments. High-sensitivity views would include landscapes that have landforms, vegetative patterns, water bodies, or rock formations of unusual or outstanding quality. Areas of medium visual sensitivity, in which the presence of motorized vehicles and other evidence of modern civilization is commonplace, are more developed than areas of high visual sensitivity. Landscape features in areas of medium sensitivity are more common than features in high visual sensitivity areas, and they generally contain varieties in form, color, line, and texture. Low visual sensitivity areas tend to have minimal landscape features, with little change in form, color, line, and texture.

SR 30E provides public access through the Cape San Blas property; however, the test areas are not accessible to the general public. Views of the Cape San Blas property from the highway consist primarily of wooded areas. Test Area D-3 is visible from the highway as a large, open area containing several structures, including buildings and towers surrounded by a chain link fence. The site is not landscaped and has a very open appearance. Because of the presence of the buildings, chain link fence, and towers and the open, non-landscaped condition of the property, Test Area D-3 can be considered to have a low visual sensitivity.

Other areas on Cape San Blas that support natural vegetation in the form of woodlands and wetlands and that also have views of the Gulf of Mexico or Saint Joseph Bay, can be considered to have a high visual sensitivity; however, these

areas are not generally visible from SR 30E and are not visible from Test Area D-3.

The FM1C Hill site is visible from the highway as an open area in the woods, but the surrounding wooded areas help screen views of this site from the highway. Saint Joseph Bay is visible to the north from FM1C Hill, but the hill is not accessible to the public.

3.2 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Hazardous materials and hazardous waste management activities at Eglin AFB, including Cape San Blas, are governed by specific environmental regulations. Hazardous materials are identified and regulated under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), OSHA, and the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act. Hazardous materials have been defined in Air Force Instruction (AFI) 32-7086, *Hazardous Materials Management*, to include any substance with special characteristics that could harm people, plants, or animals when released.

Hazardous waste is defined in the RCRA as any solid, liquid, contained gaseous or semisolid waste, or any combination of wastes that could or do pose a substantial hazard to human health or the environment. Waste may be classified as hazardous because of its toxicity, reactivity, ignitability, or corrosivity. In addition, certain types of waste are “listed” or identified as hazardous in 40 CFR Part 261.

The aspects of hazardous materials and hazardous waste management relevant to the proposed towers project include asbestos and LBP. These are discussed below. The ROI for hazardous materials and hazardous waste management includes the proposed tower site locations, Building 9982, and the existing 230-foot-tall tower.

3.2.1 Asbestos

The U.S. EPA and OSHA regulate ACM abatement. Asbestos fiber emissions into ambient air are regulated in accordance with Section 122 (42 U.S. Code [U.S.C.] Section 7412) of the Clean Air Act (CAA), which establishes the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP). The NESHAP regulations address the demolition or renovation of buildings with ACM. Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act and OSHA regulations cover worker protection for employees who work around or abate asbestos.

Renovation and/or demolition of buildings with ACM have a potential for releasing asbestos fibers into the air. Asbestos fibers could be released due to disturbance or damage from various building materials such as pipe and boiler insulation, acoustical ceilings, sprayed-on fireproofing, and other materials used for soundproofing or insulation.

The only structure associated with the towers project that could potentially contain ACM is Building 9982. This building has not been surveyed for the presence or absence of ACM.

3.2.2 Lead-Based Paint

Human exposure to lead has been determined to pose an adverse health risk by agencies such as OSHA and the U.S. EPA. Sources of exposure to lead are dust, soils, and paint. Waste is defined as hazardous under 40 CFR Part 261 if it contains levels of lead exceeding a maximum concentration of 5.0 milligrams per liter (mg/L), as determined using the U.S. EPA Toxic Characteristic Leaching Procedure, which simulates the leaching behavior of landfill waste. If a waste is classified as hazardous, disposal must take place in accordance with U.S. EPA and state hazardous waste rules.

In 1973, the Consumer Product Safety Commission established a maximum lead content in paint of 0.5 percent by weight in a dry film of newly applied paint. In 1978, under the Consumer Product Safety Act (Public Law [P.L.] 101-608 as implemented by 16 CFR Part 1303), the Consumer Product Safety Commission lowered the allowable lead level in paint to 0.06 percent. In 1993, OSHA, under 29 CFR Part 1926, extended the permissible exposure limit for general industrial workers of 50 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) of air to include workers in the construction field.

The facilities potentially affected by the proposed tower project, Building 9982 and the 230-foot antenna tower, were constructed prior to 1978 and, therefore, may contain LBP. Neither of these facilities has been surveyed for the presence or absence of LBP.

3.3 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

This section describes the affected environment for natural resources, including geology and soils, water resources, biological resources, and cultural resources.

3.3.1 Geology and Soils

The ROI for geology and soils includes specific geologic features and soils at the proposed tower sites.

Cape San Blas is situated in the Gulf Coast Lowlands. This physiographic province is characterized by marine terraces and flat sandy terrain, bars, spits, and dune fields. Cape San Blas is the southernmost part of the Saint Joseph Peninsula, a narrow spit extending into the Gulf of Mexico from the mainland. This spit separates Saint Joseph Bay from the open water of the Gulf of Mexico. Cape San Blas is the “elbow” of this L-shaped coastal barrier of beach and coastal uplands. This spit is approximately 17 miles long and averages 1,000 feet in width. Cape San Blas and the spit sediments are comprised of quartz sands, originally supplied by the Apalachicola River, 20 miles to the east (Department of the Air Force, 1999).

A soils survey has not been conducted for Cape San Blas. However, due to similarities in geologic origin, the soils on Cape San Blas are believed to be similar to the St. Lucie-Paola soils association found on Santa Rosa Island at Eglin AFB. The St Lucie-Paola soils association is formed from beach sands and is manifested by dunes. It is well drained and can vary widely in slopes (Eglin Air Force Base, 2002).

Cape San Blas is situated in Seismic Zone 0 (International Conference of Building Officials, 1991), which indicates that the region has very little or no potential of sustaining major damage from a large earthquake.

3.3.2 Water Resources

The ROI for water resources includes the proposed tower sites and adjacent areas.

Cape San Blas is situated between two salt water bodies separated by the Saint Joseph Peninsula, the Gulf of Mexico, and Saint Joseph Bay. The 500-foot antenna tower site is approximately 750 feet from the waters of Saint Joseph Bay. The calibration tower site is approximately 375 feet from the waters of Saint Joseph Bay (see Figure 2-1). Salt marshes associated with Saint Joseph Bay extend closer to the sites than the open waters of the bay. Wetlands are discussed in more detail in Sensitive Habitats (Section 3.3.3.4). No surface water is present at either of the proposed tower sites or within adjacent areas.

The majority of the Cape San Blas property is mapped as special flood hazard areas inundated by 100-year flood by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Areas along the Gulf of Mexico and St. Joseph Bay shorelines are mapped as coastal flood hazard areas with velocity hazard (wave action) that have base flood elevations ranging from 10 to 12 feet. The flood hazard areas that are not adjacent to the shorelines are not designated as having a velocity hazard; these areas are mapped as having base flood elevations ranging from 8 to 9 feet. The proposed tower sites are in a flood hazard area with a base flood elevation of 8 feet (Federal Emergency Management Agency, 2002a; 2002b).

Three freshwater aquifers are found in the Cape San Blas area. These include the surficial aquifer, the intermediate confining unit, and the Floridan Aquifer. The surficial aquifer system consists of a relatively narrow layer of unconfined waters moving through undifferentiated sand and clay sediments. The intermediate confining unit is situated beneath the surficial aquifer. It is confined within sediments and is not prone to vertical movement. The Floridan Aquifer supplies the majority of the domestic, urban, and agricultural water used in Gulf County (Department of the Air Force, 1999).

3.3.3 Biological Resources

Biological resources include the native and introduced plant and animal species in the ROI. For discussion purposes, biological resources are divided into vegetation, wildlife (including aquatic biota), sensitive species, and sensitive habitats. The ROI for biological resources includes the proposed tower sites and

adjacent habitats at Cape San Blas that may be affected by the proposed project. Because the ROI is limited to terrestrial areas, marine biological resources at Cape San Blas are not generally included in the following discussions.

3.3.3.1 Vegetation.

The proposed 500-foot antenna tower site is a generally unvegetated area adjacent to an existing building and unpaved roads. Some areas of trees are situated within the fenced Test Area D-3. Areas adjacent to the proposed tower site outside the fenceline are generally wooded. The land cover type in this area is mapped as mesic flatwoods dominated by slash pines (*Pinus elliottii*) (Department of the Air Force, 1999).

The FM1C Hill site is an artificial mound with a paved road leading to its summit. The hill and adjacent area are covered by ruderal vegetation maintained by mowing. This area is dominated by grasses. The maintained vegetation of the hill site is generally surrounded by pine forests. The land cover in this area is mapped as mesic flatwoods with areas of salt marsh along Saint Joseph Bay just to the north of FM1C Hill (Department of the Air Force, 1999). A corridor approximately 100 feet wide and trending southwesterly from the hill site has been cleared of trees to provide a line of sight between the hill and the radars at Test Area D-3. This line-of-sight corridor is covered with scrubby vegetation.

3.3.3.2 Wildlife.

Wildlife on Cape San Blas may be representative of one or more specific habitat types. Examples of wildlife found in the flatwoods community, the habitat type found in the vicinity of the proposed tower sites, include deer, raccoon, various rodents, rabbits, bobwhite, mourning doves, sparrows, Carolina anoles, anurans, eastern diamondback rattlesnakes, and six lined racers. Bobcats are a less common species known to inhabit the flatwoods (Department of the Air Force, 1999). Although the proposed towers sites are generally surrounded by areas of flatwoods community, the 500-foot-tall tower site is generally a disturbed/developed area and the calibration target tower site is situated in an area of ruderal vegetation. These areas are not expected to support a great diversity of wildlife.

Cape San Blas lies between two migration routes for neotropical birds and is close enough to attract a variety of migrating species. However, it is not an important stopover point for migratory birds. A lack of food resources, habitat fragmentation, and no protection from predators, such as hawks that also migrate over the area, may explain why this is not an important stopover point (Department of the Air Force, 1999).

3.3.3.3 Sensitive Species.

Sensitive species include federally and state-listed threatened and endangered species, and state designated species of special concern. Sensitive species potentially occurring on Cape San Blas are presented in Table 3-1.

Table 3-1. Sensitive Species Potentially Occurring on Cape San Blas

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Federal Status | State Status |
|--------------------------------|---|----------------|--------------|
| Plants | | | |
| Telephus spurge | <i>Euphorbia telephoides</i> | T | E |
| Gulf coast lupine | <i>Lupinus westianus</i> | None | T |
| Invertebrates | | | |
| Fat three-ridge | <i>Amblena neislerii</i> | E | None |
| Purple bankclimber | <i>Elliptoideus sloatianus</i> | T | None |
| Amphibians and Reptiles | | | |
| American alligator | <i>Alligator mississippiensis</i> | T (s/a) | SSC |
| Flatwoods salamander | <i>Ambystoma cingulatum</i> | T | None |
| Loggerhead sea turtle | <i>Caretta caretta</i> | T | T |
| Green sea turtle | <i>Chelonia mydas</i> | E | E |
| Leatherback sea turtle | <i>Dermochelys kempii</i> | E | E |
| Eastern indigo snake | <i>Drymarchon corais couperi</i> | T | T |
| Hawkbill sea turtle | <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> | E | E |
| Gopher tortoise | <i>Gopherus polyphemus</i> | None | SSC |
| Kemp's ridley sea turtle | <i>Lepidochelys kempii</i> | E | E |
| Suwanee cooter | <i>Pseudemys concinna suwanniensis</i> | None | SSC |
| Gopher frog | <i>Rana capito</i> | None | SSC |
| Birds | | | |
| Limpkin | <i>Aramus guarauna</i> | None | SSC |
| Southeastern snowy plover | <i>Charadrius alexandrinus tenuirostris</i> | None | T |
| Piping plover | <i>Charadrius melodus</i> | T | T |
| Little blue heron | <i>Egretta caerulea</i> | None | SSC |
| Snowy egret | <i>Egretta thula</i> | None | SSC |
| Tricolored heron | <i>Egretta tricolor</i> | None | SSC |
| Arctic peregrine falcon | <i>Falco peregrinus tundrius</i> | E (s/a) | E |
| Southeastern kestrel | <i>Falco sparverius paulus</i> | None | T |
| Florida sandhill crane | <i>Grus canadensis pratensis</i> | None | T |
| American oystercatcher | <i>Haematopus palliatus</i> | None | SSC |
| Bald eagle | <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> | T | T |
| Wood stork | <i>Mycteria americana</i> | E | E |
| Brown pelican | <i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i> | None | SSC |
| Black skimmer | <i>Rynchops niger</i> | None | SSC |
| Least tern | <i>Sterna antillarum</i> | None | T |
| Mammals | | | |
| St. Andrew beach mouse | <i>Peromyscus polionotus peninsularis</i> | E | E |
| Florida black bear | <i>Ursus americanus floridanus</i> | None | T |

E = endangered
 s/a = similarity of appearance
 SSC = species of special concern (state designation)
 T = threatened

Sources: Department of the Air Force, 1999; Florida Natural Areas Inventory, 2003; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2003.

The gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*), state-listed as a species of special concern, and the eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon corais couperi*), federally and state-listed as threatened species, may occur at Cape San Blas, but the presence of these species has not been confirmed by surveys. The Florida black

bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*) is state-listed as threatened and has been sighted on Cape San Blas. No information on population or density is available for this species. The Saint Andrew beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus peninsularis*), federally and state-listed as endangered, inhabits areas north of Cape San Blas on the Saint Joseph Peninsula, but its presence on Cape San Blas is unconfirmed. Its habitat includes well-developed dunes with sea oat vegetation and higher back dunes with live oaks and rosemary. Potential habitat for this species is present on Cape San Blas (see Section 3.3.3.4). Piping plovers (*Charadrius melodus*), federally listed as a threatened species, winter on Cape San Blas. Cape San Blas has been designated as critical habitat for wintering piping plovers (see Section 3.3.3.4). A pair of bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), federally and state listed as threatened, has nested on Cape San Blas since 1994 (Department of the Air Force, 1999).

The telephus spurge (*Euphorbia telephoides*), a federally listed as threatened and state-listed as endangered plant, is endemic to the Cape San Blas area; however, a survey conducted in 1998 did not locate this species on Cape San Blas (Patrick, 2003).

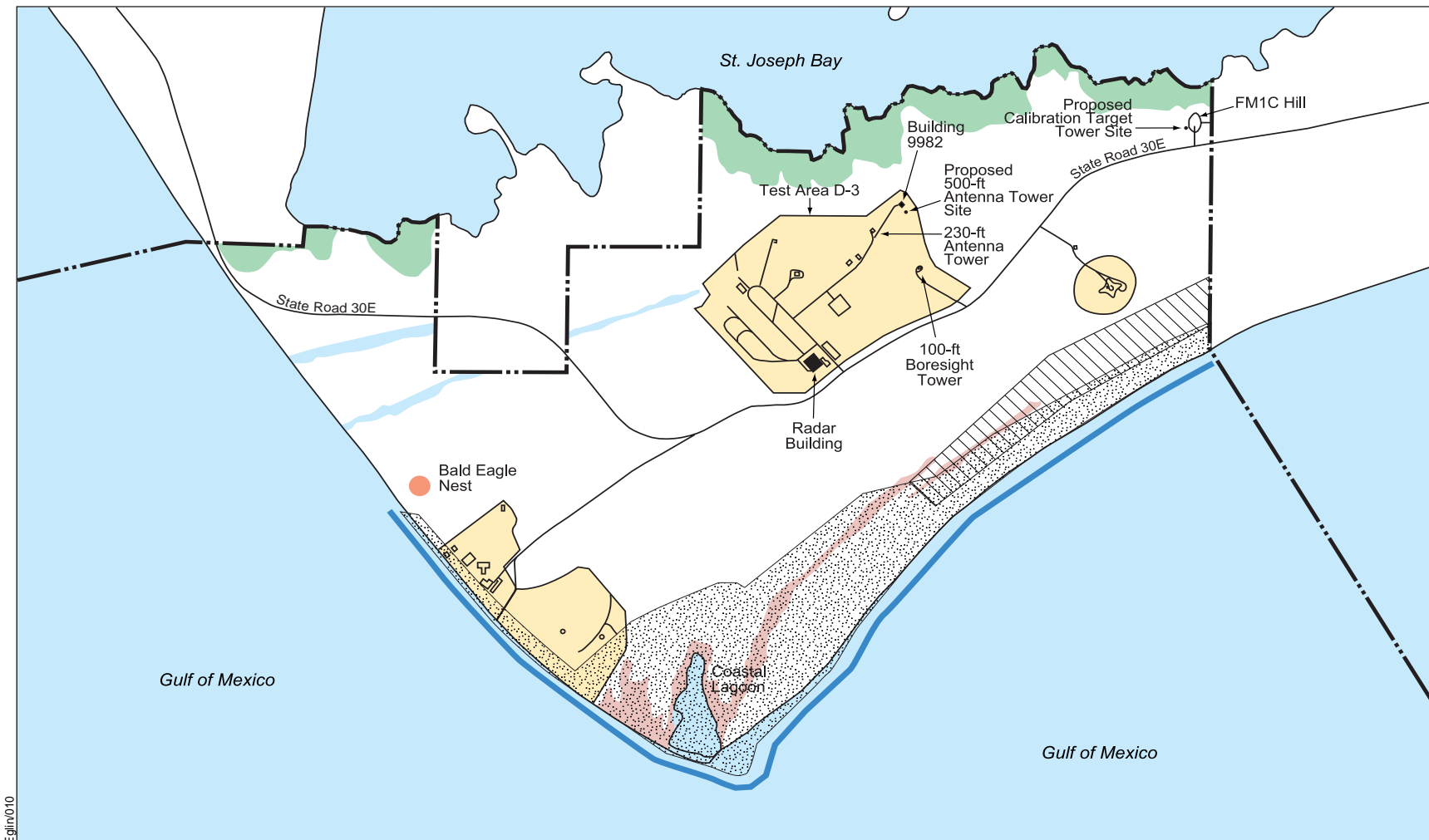
3.3.3.4 Sensitive Habitats.

Sensitive habitats include wetlands, plant communities that are unusual or of limited distribution, sensitive species habitat, and important seasonal use areas for wildlife (e.g., breeding areas). Sensitive habitats present on Cape San Blas include sensitive shore bird habitat, a bald eagle nesting site, potential beach mouse habitat, sea turtle nesting areas, and wetlands (Figure 3-1) (Department of the Air Force, 1999). None of these habitats, with the possible exception of wetlands, occurs at or adjacent to the proposed tower sites. In addition, Cape San Blas has been designated as critical habitat for wintering piping plovers, federally listed as a threatened species.

University of Florida researchers conducting shorebird surveys at Cape San Blas have recorded 26 species and have recommended that the lagoons and surrounding area be considered "sensitive shorebird habitat." This habitat includes beach, beach dune, and lagoon areas (Department of the Air Force, 1999). Bird species utilizing this habitat include several sensitive species (see Section 3.3.3.3). Cape San Blas is Unit FL-7 of the 36 units or parcels of land in Florida designated as critical habitat for wintering piping plovers. Piping plovers utilize intertidal mud and sand flats of beach areas for feeding. Therefore, the critical habitat designation affects only beach areas (U.S. Air Force, 2001). Because they are not near the beach areas on Cape San Blas, the critical habitat designation does not apply to the proposed tower sites.

A pair of bald eagles nests on the west side of Cape San Blas. This site is more than 5,000 feet from the closer of the two proposed tower sites (Department of the Air Force, 1999).

Although the presence of the Saint Andrews beach mouse, a state-listed endangered species (see Section 3.3.3.3), has not been confirmed at Cape San Blas, an area of potential beach mouse habitat has been identified along the southeastern shore of Cape San Blas (Department of the Air Force, 1999).



Eglin/010

EXPLANATION

- Roads
- - - Cape Blas Property Boundary



- Test Areas
- Water
- Coastal Interdunal Swale (wetlands)
- Salt Marsh (wetlands)

- Shorebird Nesting Habitat
- Potential Beach Mouse Habitat
- Sea Turtle Nesting Area

Sensitive Habitats on Cape San Blas

Figure 3-1

Five species of sea turtle inhabit the Gulf of Mexico. The possibility exists that all may sometime enter into the waters off Cape San Blas. The cape has 107 acres of beach habitat potentially usable by nesting sea turtles. Recent loggerhead turtle nesting density in the Cape San Blas area is 15.3 nests per mile (Department of the Air Force, 1999).

Land cover types mapped on Cape San Blas include wetland areas of salt marsh along the shores of Saint Joseph Bay, and coastal interdunal swales, also known as upper tidal marsh, along the southern shoreline of the cape (Department of the Air Force, 1999). Areas of salt marsh are situated to the north of both tower sites along Saint Joseph Bay. As mapped in the Cape San Blas Environmental Baseline Document, salt marshes occur approximately 400 feet to the north of the 500-foot-tall tower site and approximately 200 feet to the north of the proposed calibration target tower site. A jurisdictional wetlands delineation has not been conducted on the property (Steele, 2003). The National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) map of the Cape San Blas area indicates that areas identified as Estuarine Wetland occur along the shores of Saint Joseph Bay. The NWI map also indicates an area of Inland Shrub Swamp occurs to the southwest of the calibration target tower site. Areas of Inland Herbaceous Wetland are mapped in the vicinity of Test Area D-3. Although the scale of the NWI map is too small to determine the specific locations of the proposed towers in relation to the areas indicated as wetlands, according to base personnel, no wetlands are situated at the proposed tower sites (Steele, 2003). However, wetlands may be present in the vicinity of the sites.

3.3.4 Cultural Resources

Cultural resources are prehistoric and historic sites, structures, districts, artifacts, or any other physical evidence of human activity considered important to a culture, subculture, or community for scientific, traditional, religious, or other reasons. Cultural resources have been divided into three main categories for ease of discussion: prehistoric resources, historic structures and resources, and traditional resources.

The ROI for the analysis of cultural resources includes the proposed tower sites and adjacent areas on Cape San Blas. For this analysis, the ROI is synonymous with the Area of Potential Affect (APE), as defined by the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (16 U.S.C. Section 470F).

Laws, including the NHPA and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, require that federal agencies consider the effects of a proposed project on cultural resources. These laws stipulate a process for compliance, define the responsibilities of the federal agency proposing the action, and prescribe the relationship among other involved agencies (e.g., the State Historic Preservation Officer [SHPO], the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation).

A federal agency is obligated to identify cultural resources and to preserve and protect those determined to be significant (i.e., included in or eligible for inclusion in the NRHP under cultural resources legislation. Significant cultural resources, prehistoric, historic, or traditional, are referred to as "historic properties" for

convenience. In compliance with the NHPA, Eglin AFB has completed the Section 106 consultation process with the Florida SHPO concerning resources at Cape San Blas.

3.3.4.1 Prehistoric Resources.

Air Armament Center/Environmental Management Historical (AAC/EMH) has conducted Phase I archaeological surveys of the Cape San Blas property in 1993, 1994, and 2002. To date, several archaeological sites have been identified. All but one of these sites have been evaluated as ineligible for listing on the NRHP. One archaeological site has been evaluated as eligible and will be protected. This site is not situated within the ROI for the proposed towers project (Shreve, 2003). The Florida SHPO has concurred with the findings on these archaeological surveys (see Appendix B).

3.3.4.2 Historic Structures and Resources.

A historic lighthouse district, including a lighthouse, two lighthouse keepers quarters, two cisterns, and an outbuilding, is situated in the Coast Guard area on the western shore of Cape San Blas (see Figure 1-2). This historic district is considered eligible for listing on the NRHP. Facilities on Cape San Blas have been evaluated for their potential Cold War-era significance. Two buildings at Test Area D-3, Buildings 9960 and 9963, are considered eligible for listing on the NRHP for their roles in various missions conducted during the Cold War (Nelson, 2003). The Florida SHPO has concurred with these findings.

3.3.4.3 Traditional Resources.

Traditional resources can include archaeological sites, burial sites, ceremonial areas, caves, mountains, water sources, trails, plant habitat or gathering areas, or any other natural area important to a culture for religious or heritage reasons. Under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, significant traditional sites are subject to the same regulations and afforded the same protection as other types of historic properties. AAC/EMH is in the process of identifying all official American Indian representatives. Consultation with the currently identified American Indian representative groups for Eglin AFB did not identify any traditional resource concerns for the Cape San Blas property.

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4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This chapter presents the results of the analysis of potential environmental effects of implementing the Proposed Action and the No-Action Alternative at Cape San Blas. Changes to the natural and human environments that may result from the alternatives were evaluated relative to the existing environment, as described in Chapter 3.0. For each environmental component, anticipated direct and indirect effects were assessed, considering both short- and long-term project effects. The potential for significant environmental consequences was evaluated utilizing the context and intensity considerations as defined in CEQ regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR Part 1508.27).

4.1 LAND USE AND AESTHETICS

4.1.1 Proposed Action

Installation of the 500-foot antenna tower at Test Area D-3 would be consistent with the purpose of the test area. An existing antenna tower is present on the site. The addition of a new antenna tower would not change the existing land use of Test Area D-3. While a tower is not already present at FM1C Hill, installation of a calibration target tower here would be consistent with the purpose of the hill, which is to support activities at Test Area D-3. A line-of-sight corridor between the hill and Test Area D-3 is already maintained, and the presence of the tower would not interfere with the existing activities at FM1C Hill. Both towers would be consistent with Cape San Blas's purpose of providing support for DOD missions utilizing the EGTR.

The CZMA requires that federal actions that are reasonably likely to affect any land or water use or natural resources of the coastal zone be consistent with the enforceable policies of the state's federally approved coastal management program. The Air Force has prepared a CZMA consistency determination for the towers project and submitted it with this EA to the Florida State Clearinghouse for concurrence (Appendix A). The state has concurred that the proposed project is consistent with the FCMP. A copy of the state's response is provided in Appendix B.

Because the Proposed Action would be consistent with existing land uses and with the FCMP, and would support the mission of Cape San Blas, impacts to land use would not be considered significant.

Installation of the 500-foot-tall antenna tower would not change the visual sensitivity at Test Area D-3. A 230-foot-tall tower is currently present. Views of Test Area D-3 from SR 30 E would continue to include an open area containing buildings and towers surrounded by a chain link fence. An additional tower would not change the low-visual sensitivity of Test Area D-3. Because of the generally wooded nature of the areas on Cape San Blas outside of the fenced Test Area D-3, views of the new tower would be limited from most areas on the cape, including SR 30E. The tower may be visible from a distance, such as from the waters of the Gulf of Mexico or Saint Joseph Bay; however, because these

views currently include the 230-foot-tall tower, the 500-foot-tall tower would not be expected to result in a significant change in visual sensitivity. Views of the calibration target tower would be partially screened from SR 30E by the wooded areas between the road and the tower site. It may be visible briefly to a motorist on the road, but views of the tower would be largely limited by the wooded nature of the surrounding area. The tower may be visible from off site but, because views of Cape San Blas from off site already include the 230-foot-tall tower, the addition of this tower would not be expected to result in a significant change in visual sensitivity.

4.1.2 No-Action Alternative

No changes to existing land uses at Cape San Blas would occur and no changes to the visual environment would occur; therefore, no impacts to land use and aesthetics would occur.

4.1.2.1 Mitigation Measures.

No mitigation measures would be required.

4.2 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

4.2.1 Asbestos

4.2.1.1 Proposed Action.

Renovation of Building 9982 would occur under the Proposed Action. Because it is not known if ACM is present in this building, renovation activities have the potential to affect ACM. Any suspected ACM that would be disturbed during renovation activities would be tested for asbestos prior to initiation of renovation. Renovation activities would be subject to all applicable federal, state, and local regulations to minimize the potential risk to human health and the environment. Compliance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations would preclude the need for mitigation measures. No significant impacts would be expected.

4.2.1.2 No-Action Alternative.

Under the No-Action Alternative, Building 9982 would not be renovated to serve as the new tower support facility. Any potential ACM in this building would not be disturbed by renovation activities. No significant impacts would be expected.

4.2.1.3 Mitigation Measures.

No mitigation measures would be required.

4.2.2 Lead-Based Paint

4.2.2.1 Proposed Action.

Under the Proposed Action, Building 9982 would be renovated and the 230-foot antenna tower would be removed. Because both structures were constructed prior to 1978, they may contain LBP that could be damaged during

renovation/demolition activities. This could result in a release of lead to the environment. Prior to tower demolition, paint samples and a soil sample from beneath the tower would be collected and tested for the presence of lead. Should soil lead levels exceed applicable action levels, soil contamination would be addressed by the Eglin AFB ERP. Building renovation and tower demolition activities would be subject to applicable federal, state, and local regulations to minimize potential risks to human health and the environment. Adherence to applicable laws regarding worker safety, control of fugitive dust, and handling of hazardous waste would preclude the need for mitigation measures. No significant impacts would be expected.

4.2.2.2 No-Action Alternative.

Under the No-Action Alternative, Building 9982 would not be renovated to serve as the new tower support structure, and the 230-foot antenna tower would not be removed. Potential LBP on these structures would not be disturbed by these activities. No significant impacts would be expected.

4.2.2.3 Mitigation Measures.

No mitigation measures would be required.

4.3 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

4.3.1 Geology and Soils

4.3.1.1 Proposed Action.

Installation of the two towers would involve ground disturbance. The primary ground-disturbing activity would be the excavations for installation of the concrete tower base and three guy wire anchor bases at each tower. Each of the concrete bases for the 500-foot-tall tower would be approximately 100 square feet in area and 3 to 4 feet in depth. The concrete bases for the calibration target tower would be approximately 16 square feet in area and 3 to 4 feet in depth. The combined total area of disturbance for both towers would not exceed 1 acre, and a combined maximum total of approximately 65 cubic yards of soils would be excavated. This amount of ground disturbance would not be expected to significantly alter soil profiles and local topography. The excavated soils would be susceptible to wind and rain erosion; however, the amount of excavated soils would be small. Standard erosion control measures, including perimeter controls such as use of straw bales, silt fences, and berms, and surface protection such as use of mulching and hydroseeding, would be employed to minimize the potential for erosion during and after ground-disturbing activities. Demolition of the 230-foot-tall tower would not be expected to result in ground-disturbing activities. Use of standard soil erosion control measures that would be implemented for ground-disturbing activities as part routine construction activities would preclude the need for mitigation measures. No significant impacts to soils or geology would be expected.

4.3.1.2 No-Action Alternative.

No ground-disturbing activities would occur under the No-Action Alternative. No significant impacts to soils or geology would be expected.

4.3.1.3 Mitigation Measures.

No mitigation measures would be required.

4.3.2 Water Resources

4.3.2.1 Proposed Action.

Under the Proposed Action, a small increase in impervious surfaces would be created. After completion of the two towers, a total of 464 square feet of concrete surfaces would be created. None of the new concrete surfaces would exceed 100 square feet in size. This minimal increase in the amount of impervious surfaces would not be expected to significantly increase surface water runoff. The proposed tower sites are not adjacent to any surface water areas that would receive increased runoff from the concrete pads. The unpaved areas adjacent to the concrete pads would likely absorb the minimal increase in runoff.

The amount of ground-disturbing activities would be well under 1 acre and would not be subject to National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements for storm water discharge during the construction period. Use of standard soil erosion control measures that would be implemented for ground-disturbing activities as part routine construction activities, as described in Section 4.3.1.1, would preclude the need for mitigation measures.

The proposed towers would be constructed in 100-year flood hazard area. The proposed towers would consist of a metal lattice with guy wires connected to concrete anchors. There is little potential for significant damage to this type of structure from flooding. The towers would not contain any habitable space that could be affected by flooding. Construction of the towers would not modify the topography in a way that could affect the flood hazard designation of the site or adjacent areas (e.g., the construction of the towers would not result in an increased flood hazard to adjacent areas). No significant impacts to water resources would be expected.

4.3.2.2 No-Action Alternative.

No ground-disturbing activities or increase in impervious surfaces associated with tower installation would occur. No significant impacts to water resources would be expected.

4.3.2.3 Mitigation Measures.

No mitigation measures would be required.

4.3.3 Biological Resources

4.3.3.1 Proposed Action.

Vegetation. Under the Proposed Action, ground-disturbing activities would occur primarily in developed areas or areas of disturbed vegetation. The 500-foot antenna tower base would be constructed in an unvegetated area adjacent to a building. Installation of the guy wire anchor pads may require the removal of some mesic flatwoods vegetation for construction equipment access to the anchor sites, removal of vegetation at the anchor sites, and removal or trimming of trees to allow for attachment of guy wires to the tower. The total amount of vegetation lost or disturbed by guy wire anchor installation would not be expected to exceed approximately one half acre. The calibration tower base and two bases for the guy wire anchor pads would be installed in the mowed area of FM1C Hill. The third guy wire anchor pad would be installed in the scrubby vegetation in the cleared line-of-sight corridor. No disturbance to the surrounding mesic flatwoods vegetation would be expected. The installation of four 16 square foot concrete pads would result in the permanent removal of a total of 64 square feet of disturbed vegetation at the FM1C Hill site. No significant impacts to vegetation would be expected.

Wildlife. Wildlife species occupying the proposed tower sites and adjacent areas may be removed or temporarily displaced by ground-disturbing activities and by noise during construction activities. Construction activities would be short term and wildlife displaced by noise would be expected to return to adjacent areas upon completion of construction activities. The proposed towers would result in the permanent loss of a minimal area of vegetation, most of which is disturbed vegetation that does not provide habitat for a wide diversity and number of wildlife. The loss of this habitat would not represent a significant impact to these wildlife species.

Once the towers are constructed and operational, the potential for impacts to birds would exist. Two independent mechanisms of bird mortality occur at communications towers. The first is when birds flying in poor visibility do not see the structure in time to avoid it (i.e., blind collision). This is more of a threat for faster flying birds such as waterfowl or shorebirds; variables in bird vision and flight agility are factors – slower, more agile flying birds, such as songbirds, are not as likely to succumb to blind collision. This mechanism can occur during the day when the tower is obscured by fog, or at night, theoretically more often with unlighted towers (Towerkill.com, 2003).

Communications towers that are lighted at night for aviation safety may help reduce bird collisions caused by poor visibility, but they bring about a second mechanism for mortality. When there is a low cloud ceiling or foggy conditions, lights on a tower refract off water particles in the air creating an illuminated area around the tower. Migrating birds have lost their stellar cues for nocturnal migration in these weather conditions. In addition, because they are flying beneath a relatively low cloud ceiling, they have lost any broad orienting perspective they might have had on the landscape. When passing the lighted area, it may be that the increased visibility around the tower becomes the strongest cue the birds have for navigation, and thus they tend to remain in the lighted space by the tower. Mortality occurs when they run into the structure and

its guy wires, or even other migrating birds as more and more passing birds cram into the relatively small, lighted space. It is important to clarify that the lights apparently do not attract birds from afar, but rather tend to hold birds that pass within a certain illuminated vicinity (Towerkill.com, 2003). On nights of inclement and overcast weather when birds are active in broad-front migrations, lights seem to draw birds into the towers. This has been reported by many observers (Avery, 1976) when celestial cues are not available to birds flying below the cloud ceiling. Graber (1968) reported that birds entering an illuminated area on cloudy nights were reluctant to leave the lit area, just as birds in a lighted room will not fly out an open window into the darkness. Approaching the edge of the illuminated area, migrants are hesitant to fly into the darkness beyond the tower, and instead fly back toward the tower (Avery, 1976). Once attracted to the lights, they fly around the tower in a “tornado” of birds, striking the guy wires directly in the path of flight, the tower, other birds, or the ground, and often die (Manville, 2000).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Division of Migratory Bird Management has issued recommendations intended to minimize or even avoid bird collisions with towers. Some of these recommended measures have been incorporated into the Proposed Action. These include the following:

- Daytime visual markers would be installed on the guy wires to reduce collisions by birds.
- The minimum amount of pilot warning and obstruction avoidance lighting required by the FAA would be used, and the lights would be the minimum number, minimum intensity, and minimum number of flashes per minute (longest duration between flashes) allowable by the FAA.
- Security lighting for on-ground facilities and equipment would be down-shielded to keep light within the boundaries of the site.
- The existing 230-foot-tall tower would be removed after completion of the 500-foot-tall tower.

However, even with implementation of measures, bird mortality would likely occur. Although this would be an adverse and unavoidable impact of the towers project, it would not be considered significant.

Sensitive Species. The intended construction sites for the two proposed towers were previously disturbed. Regular maintenance (e.g., equipment upkeep, clearing vegetation in line-of-site corridors) continues to disturb these areas and adjacent areas. Construction vehicles will use existing roads for ingress. No threatened or endangered species are likely to be impacted during the construction or operation of either tower. Consultation with the USFWS was conducted. The USFWS indicated their concurrence that the Proposed Action would not be likely to adversely affect species protected by the Endangered Species Act (see Appendix B).

Sensitive Habitats. None of the areas on Cape San Blas identified as sensitive habitats in Section 3.3.3.4, with the possible exception of wetlands, is present at or adjacent to the proposed tower sites. Areas of wetlands may be present in the vicinity of the tower sites. Wetlands can be affected by direct or indirect impacts. Direct impacts can result when land is initially developed or when wetlands are filled, dredged, or flooded. Because none of the tower base or guy wire anchor pads is situated within a wetland, no direct impacts to wetlands would be expected. Indirect impacts can occur from disturbance on adjacent lands, causing chemical or sedimentary runoff that can result in water quality degradation. Wetlands on the property could be indirectly affected by storm water runoff containing sediment from disturbed areas created during tower construction activities. Based on the minimal amount of ground disturbance that would occur and the short duration of this disturbance, installation of the towers would not be expected to result in indirect impacts to adjacent wetlands from sediment in storm water runoff from the sites. Soil erosion control measures implemented during construction activities, as described in Section 4.3.1.1, would further reduce the potential for sediment in storm water runoff to affect any nearby wetland.

4.3.3.2 No-Action Alternative.

No changes to existing conditions would occur under the No-Action Alternative. No significant impacts would be expected.

4.3.3.3 Mitigation Measures.

USFWS recommendations intended to minimize or even avoid bird collisions with towers have been incorporated into the Proposed Action. No additional mitigation measures would be required.

4.3.4 Cultural Resources

4.3.4.1 Proposed Action.

The proposed tower sites have been surveyed for archaeological resources. No archaeological sites evaluated as eligible for inclusion on the NRHP have been identified in the vicinity of either of the proposed tower sites. No impacts to archaeological resources would be expected. However, in the unexpected event that archaeological resources are discovered during construction activities, work would cease in the immediate area and the AAC/EMH would be contacted.

Buildings 9960 and 9963 at Test Area D-3 are considered eligible for listing on the NRHP. Installation of the 500-foot-tall tower and demolition of the 230-foot-tall tower would not affect these buildings. Replacement of the 230-foot-tall tower with a 500-foot-tall tower would not result in a significant change in the setting at Test Area D-3, and operation of the 500-foot-tall tower would represent a continuation of the ongoing activities at Test Area D-3 that Buildings 9960 and 9963 support. Building 9982 is not considered a historic structure; therefore, renovation of this building would not result in any significant impacts.

Because of intervening forested areas, the 500-foot-tall tower would not be visible from the lighthouse historic district situated on the west coast of Cape San

Blas, approximately 1 mile from the proposed tower site. Therefore, there would be no change in setting at this historic district, and no significant impacts would be expected.

Consultation with Native American groups did not identify any traditional resource concerns that could be adversely affected by the proposed towers project.

Consultation with the Florida SHPO has been completed.

4.3.4.2 No-Action Alternative.

Because no ground-disturbing activities or installation of towers would occur, no impacts to cultural resources would be expected.

4.3.4.3 Mitigation Measures.

No significant impacts to cultural resources are expected; therefore, no mitigation measures are recommended.

4.4 UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The towers project could result in unavoidable adverse environmental effects because the towers are likely to cause mortality to migratory birds. Implementation of measures to minimize bird collisions with towers identified in this EA would reduce, but not eliminate, this adverse environmental effect.

There would be no other unavoidable adverse environmental effects from implementation of the towers project.

4.5 COMPATIBILITY OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAND USE PLANS AND POLICIES

The proposed towers project would be consistent with and support the purpose of the Cape San Blas property. It would also be consistent with Florida's coastal management program. A CZMA consistency determination has been submitted to the Florida State Clearinghouse for concurrence.

4.6 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SHORT-TERM USES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY

The towers project would not affect the long-term productivity of the environment provided the mitigation measures described in this EA are incorporated.

4.7 IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES

Implementation of the tower project would result in an irreversible or irretrievable commitment of small quantities of resources such as fuel, metallic and nonmetallic construction materials, and labor.

4.8 CUMULATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Cumulative impacts result from “the incremental impacts of actions when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time” (Council on Environmental Quality, 1978).

No other actions have been identified for the Cape San Blas area that have the potential to result in significant cumulative impacts. Removal of the 230-foot-tall tower after installation of the 500-foot tower would eliminate the potential cumulative impact to birds from having two towers at this location.

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APPENDIX A

FEDERAL AGENCY COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT (CZMA) CONSISTENCY DETERMINATION

FEDERAL AGENCY COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT (CZMA) CONSISTENCY DETERMINATION

Introduction

This document provides the State of Florida with the U.S. Air Force's Consistency Determination under CZMA Section 307 and 15 C.F.R. Part 930 sub-part C. The information in this Consistency Determination is provided pursuant to 15 C.F.R. Section 930.39.

Pursuant to Section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. § 1456, as amended, its implementing regulations at 15 C.F.R. Part 930, this is a Federal Consistency Determination for activities described within the Construction and Operation of Two Towers at Test Area D-3 at the Cape San Blas (CSB) Property of Eglin Air Force Base, Florida Environmental Assessment (Chapter 2 of the EA).

Proposed Federal agency action:

The Proposed Action would entail the installation of two towers, a 500-ft antenna tower and a calibration target tower, to support ongoing and future activities at CSB. The Proposed Action would also involve renovation of an existing building to serve as a support structure for the 500-ft tower. Construction equipment access to both tower sites would be provided via existing roads. Installation of the calibration target tower would be expected to take less than 1 month. Installation of the 500-ft tower would be expected to take 6 to 8 weeks.

The U.S. Air Force, Air Armament Center has evaluated the operations described in the CSB Towers Environmental Assessment for potential effects to the land or water uses or natural resources of the State of Florida's coastal zone within the context of the statutes listed in the Florida Coastal Zone Management Plan (below).

Federal Consistency Review

Statutes addressed as part of the Florida Coastal Zone Management Program consistency review and considered in the analysis of the proposed action are discussed in the following table.

Florida Coastal Management Program Consistency Review

| Statute | Consistency | Scope |
|--|--|--|
| Chapter 161 <i>Beach and Shore Preservation</i> | The proposed project will not adversely affect beach and shore management, specifically as pertains to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The Coastal Construction Permit Program. Construction would not occur seaward of the mean high water line. -The Coastal Construction Control Line (CCCL) Permit Program. Construction would not occur seaward of the CCCL, where wind and wave forces would potentially cause significant fluctuations in the beach/dune system. Further, all land activities occur on federal property. -The Coastal Zone Protection Program. The towers would not be constructed between the seasonal high-water line and 1,500 feet landward of the CCCL. | Authorizes the Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems within DEP to regulate construction on or seaward of the states' beaches. |
| Chapter 163, Part II <i>Growth Policy; County and Municipal Planning; Land Development Regulation</i> | The proposed action, which occurs on federal property, conforms with local government comprehensive development plans. Transitions from federal property into state waters primarily occur within restricted and prohibited areas controlled by the U.S. Air Force and would not interfere with development. | Requires local governments to prepare, adopt, and implement comprehensive plans that encourage the most appropriate use of land and natural resources in a manner consistent with the public interest. |
| Chapter 186 <i>State and Regional Planning</i> | State and regional agencies will be provided the opportunity to review the environmental assessment. The proposed action, which occurs on federal property, conforms with the State Comprehensive Plan and associated translational plans, including the State Land Development Plan, Florida Water Plan, Florida Transportation Plan, and strategic regional policy plans. | Details state-level planning requirements. Requires the development of special statewide plans governing water use, land development, and transportation. |
| Chapter 252 <i>Emergency Management</i> | The proposed action would not increase the state's vulnerability to natural disasters. Emergency response and evacuation procedures would not be impacted by the proposed action. Activities described in the EA did not historically require closures of state roadways; thus, traffic delays are not expected. | Provides for planning and implementation of the state's response to, efforts to recover from, and the mitigation of natural and manmade disasters. |
| Chapter 253 <i>State Lands</i> | The proposed action would not involve the use of state submerged lands. An Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) or Joint Coastal Permit (JCP) is not necessary given that the proposed action would not result in impacts to submerged resources. | Addresses the state's administration of public lands and property of this state and provides direction regarding the acquisition, disposal, and management of all state lands. |
| Chapter 258 <i>State Parks and Preserves</i> | State parks, recreational areas and aquatic preserves would not be affected by the proposed action. Construction would not occur | Addresses administration and management of state parks and preserves (Chapter 258). |

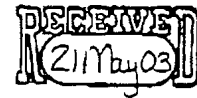
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| <p>Chapter 259 <i>Land Acquisition for Conservation or Recreation</i></p> <p>Chapter 260 <i>Recreational Trails System</i></p> <p>Chapter 375 <i>Multipurpose Outdoor Recreation; Land Acquisition, Management, and Conservation</i></p> | <p>within any aquatic preserves. Tourism and outdoor recreation would not be significantly affected. Opportunities for recreation on state lands would not be affected.</p> | <p>Authorizes acquisition of environmentally endangered lands and outdoor recreation lands (Chapter 259).</p> <p>Authorizes acquisition of land to create a recreational trails system and to facilitate management of the system (Chapter 260).</p> <p>Develops comprehensive multipurpose outdoor recreation plan to document recreational supply and demand, describe current recreational opportunities, estimate need for additional recreational opportunities, and propose means to meet the identified needs (Chapter 375).</p> |
| <p>Chapter 267 <i>Historical Resources</i></p> | <p>Potential impacts to cultural resources are discussed in Chapter 4, Section 4.6 of the EA. The proposed tower sites have been surveyed and no archaeological sites eligible for the National Register were identified. The Florida SHPO concurred with these findings. The project is consistent with the goals of this chapter.</p> | <p>Addresses management and preservation of the state's archaeological and historical resources.</p> |
| <p>Chapter 288 <i>Commercial Development and Capital Improvements</i></p> | <p>The proposed action occurs on federal property. The proposed action is not anticipated to have any effect on future business opportunities on state lands, or the promotion of tourism in the region.</p> | <p>Provides the framework for promoting and developing the general business, trade, and tourism components of the state economy.</p> |
| <p>Chapter 334 <i>Transportation Administration</i></p> <p>Chapter 339 <i>Transportation Finance and Planning</i></p> | <p>Potential impacts to public transportation were evaluated in the EA. The proposed towers project would not result in any changes in traffic levels or patterns, nor result in any changes to existing roads. Based on the analysis, the proposed action would not have a significant effect on water and land transportation within the region of influence. Construction activities would result in a short-term and insignificant increase in construction traffic to Cape San Blas.</p> | <p>Addresses the state's policy concerning transportation administration (Chapter 334).</p> <p>Addresses the finance and planning needs of the state's transportation system (Chapter 339).</p> |
| <p>Chapter 370 <i>Saltwater Fisheries</i></p> | <p>The proposed action would not affect Saltwater Fisheries.</p> | <p>Addresses management and protection of the state's saltwater fisheries.</p> |
| <p>Chapter 372 <i>Wildlife</i></p> | <p>Potential impacts to wildlife, including threatened and endangered (T&E) species are evaluated in Chapter 4. The proposed action would not significantly affect threatened and/or endangered species. Impacts to threatened and endangered species would be</p> | <p>Addresses the management of the wildlife resources of the state.</p> |

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| | <p>minimized or prevented through the implementation of management practices. A biological assessment has been prepared for potential impacts to federally listed species and the USFWS concurred the proposed actions are not likely to adversely affect T&E species. The requirements of Section 7 of the ESA have been satisfied.</p> | |
| <p>Chapter 373 <i>Water Resources</i></p> | <p>Erosion and impacts to water quality are discussed in Chapter 4. The proposed action would not affect water resources. Consumptive water use, though not discussed in the EA, will not interfere with any presently existing legal use of water, and use of water resources is consistent with the public interest. Use of standard erosion control methods would be implemented to minimize erosion and associated water quality impacts. As discussed in Chapter 4, potential impacts to water resources would not be significant.</p> | <p>Addresses the state's policy concerning water resources.</p> |
| <p>Chapter 376 <i>Pollutant Discharge Prevention and Removal</i></p> | <p>The proposed action does not involve the storage and transportation of pollutants. Any suspected asbestos-containing material that would be disturbed during renovation activities would be tested for asbestos prior to initiation of renovation. Renovation activities would be subject to all applicable federal, state, and local regulations to minimize the potential risk to human health and the environment. Adherence to applicable laws regarding worker safety, control of fugitive dust, and handling of hazardous waste would preclude the need for mitigation measures. Compliance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations would preclude the need for mitigation measures. There would be no significant impacts to the environment from pollutant discharges.</p> | <p>Regulates transfer, storage, and transportation of pollutants, and cleanup of pollutant discharges.</p> |
| <p>Chapter 377 <i>Energy Resources</i></p> | <p>Energy resource production, including oil and gas, and the transportation of oil and gas, would not be affected by the proposed action.</p> | <p>Addresses regulation, planning, and development of energy resources of the state.</p> |
| <p>Chapter 380 <i>Land and Water Management</i></p> | <p>The proposed action would occur on federally owned lands. Under the proposed action, development of state lands with regional (i.e. more than one county) impacts would not occur. Areas of Critical State Concern or areas with approved state resource management plans such as the Northwest Florida Coast would not be affected. Changes to coastal infrastructure such as bridge construction, capacity increases of existing coastal infrastructure, or use of state</p> | <p>Establishes land and water management policies to guide and coordinate local decisions relating to growth and development.</p> |

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| | funds for infrastructure planning, designing or construction would not occur. | |
| Chapter 381 <i>Public Health, General Provisions</i> | The proposed action does not involve the construction of an on-site sewage treatment and disposal system. Field wastes would be collected via portable latrines and disposed at an offsite sewage treatment facility. A permit is not applicable for the proposed action. | Establishes public policy concerning the state's public health system. |
| Chapter 388 <i>Mosquito Control</i> | The proposed action would not affect mosquito control. | Addresses mosquito control effort in the state. |
| Chapter 403 <i>Environmental Control</i> | No aspects of the proposed action occur in state waters and would not affect ecological systems and water quality of state waters. Effects on water quality would not be significant. No dredge and fill operations, discharges into groundwater or effects to public drinking water supplies would occur. Impacts to air quality are not expected. | Establishes public policy concerning environmental control in the state. |
| Chapter 582 <i>Soil and Water Conservation</i> | The proposed action would result in minimal (less than one acre) soil erosion with no increases in turbidity from soil erosion. Best management practices for preventing and controlling erosion would be necessary and are described in Chapter 4 of the EA. | Provides for the control and prevention of soil erosion. |

Pursuant to 15 C.F.R. § 930.41, the Florida State Clearinghouse has 60 days from receipt of this document in which to concur with or object to this Consistency Determination, or to request an extension, in writing, under 15 C.F.R. § 930.41(b). Florida's concurrence will be presumed if its response is not received by Eglin AFB on the 60th day from receipt of this determination.

APPENDIX B
AGENCY CONSULTATION



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Glenda E. Hood
Secretary of State
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Ms. Maria Rodriguez
Chief, Historic Preservation Division
501 DeLeon Street, Ste 101
Eglin AFB, FL 32542-5133

May 12, 2003

Re: DHR Project No. 2003-3548 / Date Received by DHR: April 23, 2003 *for 5/12/03*
Survey of X-654, Cultural Resources Support, Eglin Air Force Base,
Okaloosa, Santa Rosa and Walton Counties, Florida

Dear Ms. Rodriguez:

Our office received and reviewed the above referenced project in accordance with Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966* (Public Law 89-665), as amended in 1992, and 36 C.F.R., Part 800: *Protection of Historic Properties*. The State Historic Preservation Officer is to advise and assist federal agencies when identifying historic properties listed or eligible for listing in the *National Register of Historic Places*, assessing effects upon them, and considering alternatives to avoid or minimize adverse effects.

Results of the survey indicate that two previously unrecorded sites (8GU133 and 8GU134) were identified within tract X-654. Site 8GU133 is a secondarily deposited site resulting from modern activity. Therefore, due to lack of integrity, site 8GU133 does not appear to meet the criteria for listing in the *National Register of Historic Places*. Site 8GU134 is a prehistoric ceramic and shell artifact surface scatter. Due to limited artifact assemblage, absence of intact cultural deposits, and lack of substantive research potential, site 8GU134 does not appear to meet the criteria for listing in the *National Register of Historic Places*.

Site 8GU114, the Lighthouse Bayou site, is located just outside the surveyed area and was not investigated as part of this survey because of repeated survey and excavation in the past. The Florida Master Site File form surveyor's evaluation states that there is insufficient information to determine potential eligibility for site 8GU114. The State Historic Preservation Officer has not made a determination of eligibility. Therefore, our office recommends avoidance of this area or additional archaeological investigation to determine whether site 8GU114 should be considered eligible for listing in the *National Register of Historic Places*. If after additional testing, site 8GU114 is found to be eligible for listing in the *National Register*, a suitable mitigation plan should be proposed.

Based on the information provided, our office finds the submitted report complete and sufficient in accordance with Chapter 1A-46, *Florida Administrative Code*. If you have any questions concerning our comments, please contact Alissa Slade, Historic Sites Specialist, at amslade@dos.state.fl.us or (850) 245-6333. Your interest in protecting Florida's historic properties is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Janet Snyder Matthews, Deputy SHPO

Janet Snyder Matthews, Ph.D., Director, and
State Historic Preservation Officer

500 S. Bronough Street • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250 • <http://www.flheritage.com>

☐ Director's Office ☐ Archaeological Research ☒ Historic Preservation ☐ Historical Museums
(850) 245-6300 • FAX: 245-6435 (850) 245-6444 • FAX: 245-6436 (850) 245-6333 • FAX: 245-6437 (850) 245-6400 • FAX: 245-6433

☐ Palm Beach Regional Office ☐ St. Augustine Regional Office ☐ Tampa Regional Office
(561) 279-1475 • FAX: 279-1476 (904) 825-5045 • FAX: 825-5044 (813) 272-3843 • FAX: 272-2340



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Field Office

1601 Balboa Avenue

Panama City, FL 32405-3721

Tel.: (850) 769-0552

Fax: (850) 763-2177

August 26, 2003

Mr. Stephen M. Seiber
Acting Chief, Natural Resources Branch
AAC/EMSN
501 DeLeon Street, Suite 101
Eglin Air Force Base, Florida 32542-5133

Re: FWS No. 4-P-03-268
Construction of Two Towers
at Cape San Blas, Eglin AFB

Dear Mr. Seiber:

Thank you for your letter of July 14, 2003 (received by our office on July 23, 2003), requesting our review of the project referenced above. Your letter was accompanied by a Biological Assessment (BA) for this project. This response is provided in accordance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703, *et seq.*), Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) (Act), and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 *et seq.*).

The proposed action consists of the construction and operation of two towers on Eglin Air Force Base (AFB) Property at Cape San Blas (CSB); a 500-foot antenna tower supported by three guy wires, and a calibration tower between 95 and 150 feet in height supported by guy wires. Daytime visual markers would be installed on the guy wires of both towers to reduce collisions by birds. Renovation of an existing building to serve as a support structure for the 500-foot tower is also proposed. Security lighting for on-ground facilities would be down shielded to avoid attracting birds to the site and aid in the prevention of bird disorientation.

Based on the implementation of the avoidance minimization measures identified in your BA and other information you have provided, we believe that the construction and operation of the two towers on Eglin AFB property at CSB is not likely to adversely affect species protected under the Endangered Species Act. In view of this statement, we believe that the requirements of Section 7 have been satisfied. Reinitiation of consultation may be required if modifications are made in the

project, avoidance and minimization procedures are not implemented, impacts to listed species occur beyond what has been considered, or if other pertinent information becomes available on listed species.

We wish to thank and recognize the Air Force for its efforts in considering and implementing the Service's Recommendations for Towers Construction, Operation and Decommissioning (referred hereafter as Tower Guidelines). We offer the following additional recommendations for consideration by the Air Force:

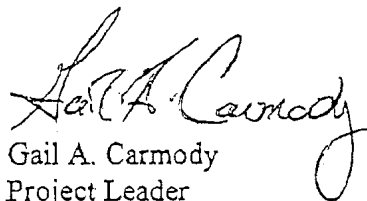
Based on our review of numerous communications tower projects throughout the Florida panhandle, it is our experience that towers less than 200 feet in height are usually constructed using either a mono pole or lattice design and are self-supporting without guy wires. If safety and equipment loading permit, we urge that consideration be given to modifying the design of the smaller calibration tower (only 95-150 feet in height) to make it self-supporting without using guy wires.

The BA notes that equipment from an existing tower would be installed on the newly constructed 500-foot tower. The older tower *"would not be reused and it would likely be removed."* *"There is not an established time line associated with this removal process so that the process will be implemented as funds and time permit."* The Service's Tower Recommendations state that *"towers no longer in use or determined to be obsolete should be removed within 12 months of cessation of use."* We recommend that removal of the older tower at Cape San Blas be incorporated in the construction project plans, and the tower be removed as soon as possible not to exceed one year after having its equipment removed. This recommendation is made provided that any materials containing lead based paint can be disposed of in accordance with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and State of Florida hazardous waste regulations.

The BA states that CSB *"is in between two migration routes for neotropical birds and close enough to attract a variety of migrating bird species; however, CSB is not an important stopover point for migrating birds (Lamont et al., 1997)."* However, Lamont did document bird use at CSB. The Service is seeking to obtain information on migratory bird flyways, comparison of the impacts of different tower designs on birds and the usefulness of implementing Tower Recommendations. Therefore, the proposed project at CSB presents an excellent opportunity to contribute towards collection of this information. We urge the Air Force to support funding for monitoring of the impacts (if any) of the towers at CSB by conducting periodic dead bird searches in the immediate vicinity of the towers. Other research such as evaluating bird use of CSB and movement of migrating birds through the area through the use of radar, Global Positioning Systems, infrared, thermal imagery, and acoustical monitoring equipment would also be valuable. For further information on monitoring and research needs, please contact Mr. Paul Lang of our office at extension 230.

If you have any questions or concerns about this consultation, or for further coordination, please contact Mr. Stan Simpkins at ext. 234.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gail A. Carmody". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Gail A. Carmody
Project Leader

cc:

Chuck Hunter, FWS, Migratory Birds, Atlanta, GA

PCFO:S.Simpkins:sks:kh:08-21-03;850-769-0552:[c:\stan\4p03268.wpd]



Jeb Bush
Governor

Department of Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Colleen M. Castille
Secretary

March 25, 2004

Mr. Dan Nichols
Chief, Environmental Stewardship Division
501 DeLeon St, Ste 101
Eglin AFB, FL 32542-5133

RE: Department of the Air Force – Draft Environmental Assessment for the Cape San Blas Towers Project, Eglin Air Force Base – Cape San Blas, Gulf County, FL
SAI# FL200401285280C

Dear Mr. Nichols:

The Florida State Clearinghouse, pursuant to Presidential Executive Order 12372, Gubernatorial Executive Order 95-359, the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1451-1464, as amended, and the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321, 4331-4335, 4341-4347, as amended, has coordinated the review of the above-referenced Draft Environmental Assessment.

Based on the information contained in the application and the enclosed comments provided by our reviewing agencies, the state has determined that the above-referenced action is consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the project. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Mr. Daniel Lawson at (850) 245-2174.

Yours sincerely,

Sally B. Mann, Director
Office of Intergovernmental Programs

SBM/dl

cc: Dick Fancher, DEP, Northwest District

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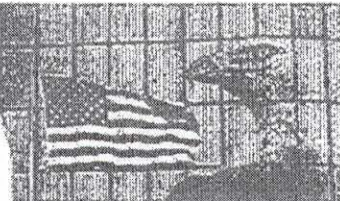


Florida

Department of Environmental Protection

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| | |
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| Project Information | |
| Project: | FL200401285280C |
| Comments Due: | February 27, 2004 |
| Letter Due: | March 28, 2004 |
| Description: | DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE - DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE CAPE SAN BLAS TOWERS PROJECT, EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE - CAPE SAN BLAS, GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA. |
| Keywords: | USAF - EGLIN AFB CAPE SAN BLAS TOWERS PROJECT - GULF CO. |
| CFDA #: | 12.200 |
| Agency Comments: | |
| APALACHEE RPC - APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL | |
| NO COMMENT | |
| GULF - GULF COUNTY | |
| FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION - FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION | |
| NO COMMENT BY BRIAN BARNETT | |
| STATE - FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE | |
| No comment | |
| TRANSPORTATION - FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | |
| NC | |
| ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION - FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION | |
| No Comment | |
| NORTHWEST FLORIDA WMD - NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT | |
| No Comment | |

For more information please contact the Clearinghouse Office at:

AGENCY CONTACT AND COORDINATOR (SCH)
 3900 COMMONWEALTH BOULEVARD MS-47
 TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-3000
 TELEPHONE: (850) 245-2161
 FAX: (850) 245-2190

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COUNTY: GULF

DATE: 1/28/2004

COMMENTS DUE DATE: 2/27/2004

CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 3/28/2004

SAI#: FL200401285280C

MESSAGE:

| | | | |
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| STATE AGENCIES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION X FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION STATE TRANSPORTATION | WATER MNGMNT. DISTRICTS NORTHWEST FLORIDA WMD | OPB POLICY UNIT | RPCS & LOC GOVS |
|--|---|------------------------|----------------------------|

The attached document requires a Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida Coastal Management Program consistency evaluation and is categorized as one of the following:

- Federal Assistance to State or Local Government (15 CFR 930, Subpart F). Agencies are required to evaluate the consistency of the activity.
- X Direct Federal Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart C). Federal Agencies are required to furnish a consistency determination for the State's concurrence or objection.
- Outer Continental Shelf Exploration, Development or Production Activities (15 CFR 930, Subpart E). Operators are required to provide a consistency certification for state concurrence/objection.
- Federal Licensing or Permitting Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart D). Such projects will only be evaluated for consistency when there is not an analogous state license or permit.

Project Description:

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE - DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE CAPE SAN BLAS TOWERS PROJECT, EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE - CAPE SAN BLAS, GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA.

To: Florida State Clearinghouse

AGENCY CONTACT AND COORDINATOR (SCH)
3900 COMMONWEALTH BOULEVARD MS-47
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-3000
TELEPHONE: (850) 245-2161
FAX: (850) 245-2190

EO. 12372/NEPA Federal Consistency

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Comment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Comment/Consistent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comment Attached | <input type="checkbox"/> Consistent/Comments Attached |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> Inconsistent/Comments Attached |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable |

From:

Division/Bureau: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Reviewer: BRIAN BARNETT

Date: 2/3/04

RECEIVED

FEB 05 2004

OPI/OLGA

RECEIVED BY FWC

FEB 03 2004

OFFICE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

COUNTY: GULF
SAI-USAf-EG
2004-917

DATE: 1/28/2004
COMMENTS DUE DATE: 2/27/2004
CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 3/28/2004
SAI#: FL200401285280C

MESSAGE:

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|--|---|------------------------|--|
| STATE AGENCIES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION X STATE TRANSPORTATION | WATER MNGMNT. DISTRICTS NORTHWEST FLORIDA WMD | OPB POLICY UNIT | RPCS & LOC GOVS RECEIVED FEB 16 2004 OIP/OLGA |
|--|---|------------------------|--|

The attached document requires a Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida Coastal Management Program consistency evaluation and is categorized as one of the following:

- .. Federal Assistance to State or Local Government (15 CFR 930, Subpart F). Agencies are required to evaluate the consistency of the activity.
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Project Description:

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE - DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE CAPE SAN BLAS TOWERS PROJECT, EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE - CAPE SAN BLAS, GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA.

To: Florida State Clearinghouse

AGENCY CONTACT AND COORDINATOR (SCH)
3900 COMMONWEALTH BOULEVARD MS-47
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-3000
TELEPHONE: (850) 245-2161
FAX: (850) 245-2190

EO. 12372/NEPA Federal Consistency

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Comment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Comment/Consistent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comment Attached | <input type="checkbox"/> Consistent/Comments Attached |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> Inconsistent/Comments Attached |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable |

From:

Division of Historical Resources
Division/Bureau: Bureau of Historic Preservation

Reviewer: S. EDWARDS *Laura A. Rasmussen, Supervisor*
Date: 2-11-04 2-11-2004

#8783

04 FEB - 3 PM 4:19

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

COUNTY: GULF

DATE: 1/28/2004

COMMENTS DUE DATE: 2/27/2004

CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 3/28/2004

SAI#: FL200401285280C

MESSAGE:

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| STATE AGENCIES | WATER MNGMNT. DISTRICTS | OPB POLICY UNIT | RPCS & LOC GOVS |
| ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION | X NORTHWEST FLORIDA WMD | | |
| FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION | | | |
| STATE | | | |
| TRANSPORTATION | | | |

The attached document requires a Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida Coastal Management Program consistency evaluation and is categorized as one of the following:

- ☐ Federal Assistance to State or Local Government (15 CFR 930, Subpart E). Agencies are required to evaluate the consistency of the activity.
- ☒ Direct Federal Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart C). Federal Agencies are required to furnish a consistency determination for the State's concurrence or objection.
- ☐ Outer Continental Shelf Exploration, Development or Production Activities (15 CFR 930, Subpart E). Operators are required to provide a consistency certification for state concurrence/objection.
- ☐ Federal Licensing or Permitting Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart D). Such projects will only be evaluated for consistency when there is not an analogous state license or permit.

Project Description:

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE - DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE CAPE SAN BLAS TOWERS PROJECT, EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE - CAPE SAN BLAS, GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA.

To: Florida State Clearinghouse

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3900 COMMONWEALTH BOULEVARD MS-47
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-3000
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EO. 12372/NEPA Federal Consistency

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|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Comment | <input type="checkbox"/> No Comment/Consistent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comment Attached | <input type="checkbox"/> Consistent/Comments Attached |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> Inconsistent/Comments Attached |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable |

NO COMMENTS

From:

NWFWMD
Division/Bureau: Resource Management Div.
Reviewer: Duncan J. Cairns
Date: 10 FEBRUARY 2004

F V RM Gen GW

04-29

**FLORIDA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE
RPC INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION AND RESPONSE SHEET**

SAI#: FL200401285280C

DATE: 1/29/2004

COMMENTS DUE TO CLEARINGHOUSE: 2/27/2004

AREA OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY: 12.200

COUNTY: GULF

CITY: CAPE SAN BLAS

☐ FEDERAL ASSISTANCE ☒ DIRECT FEDERAL ACTIVITY ☐ FEDERAL LICENSE OR PERMIT ☐ OCS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE - DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR
THE CAPE SAN BLAS TOWERS PROJECT, EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE - CAPE SAN
BLAS, GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA.

ROUTING:

RPC

X APALACHEE RPC

RECEIVED

FEB 03 2004
1351
APALACHEE REGIONAL
PLANNING COUNCIL

PLEASE CHECK ALL THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS BELOW FROM WHICH
COMMENTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED; ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED SHOULD BE
INCLUDED IN THE RPC'S CLEARINGHOUSE RESPONSE PACKAGE. IF NO
COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED, PLEASE CHECK "NO COMMENT" BOX AND
RETURN TO CLEARINGHOUSE.

COMMENTS DUE TO RPC: 2/20/2004

___ GULF

NO COMMENTS: ~~X~~

(IF THE RPC DOES NOT RECEIVE COMMENTS BY THE DEADLINE DATE, THE RPC
SHOULD CONTACT THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO DETERMINE THE STATUS OF THE
PROJECT REVIEW PRIOR TO FORWARDING THE RESPONSE PACKAGE TO THE
CLEARINGHOUSE.)

NOTES:

RECEIVED

MAR 08 2004

OIP/OLGA

ALL CONCERNS OR COMMENTS REGARDING THE ATTACHED PROJECT
(INCLUDING ANY RPC COMMENTS) SHOULD BE SENT IN WRITING BY THE DUE
DATE TO THE CLEARINGHOUSE. PLEASE ATTACH THIS RESPONSE FORM AND
REFER TO THE SAI # IN ALL CORRESPONDENCE.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE ATTACHED PROJECT, PLEASE
CONTACT THE STATE CLEARINGHOUSE AT (850) 245-2161.